Current Situation Analysis Based on the JML Survey

The Royal Electrical Engineering Chapter & The Medical Engineering Chapter

2026



Introduction

This document provides a summary of the results of the *JML Survey 2026*, which was conducted in spring 2026 by the joint Equality, Diversity and Equal Treatment Committee (*JML-group*) of the Royal Electrical Engineering Chapter and the Medical Engineering Chapter. The survey aimed to examine issues relating to equality, diversity and equal treatment within the two chapters during the 2025 operational year. It consisted of five main sections:

1. Inclusion in Chapter Life
2. Occurrence of Discrimination and Harassment
3. Alcohol and Peer Pressure in the Chapters
4. Access to Information in Chapter Life
5. General

The survey responses were compiled by Rita Dwina and Nova Bark from the Medical Engineering Chapter, as well as Gustav Grönros and Erik Nydahl from the Royal Electrical Engineering Chapter.

The analysis of the survey responses is divided into five parts:

1. The Respondents
2. Results of This Year's Survey
3. Analysis of the Results
4. Future Measures
5. Final Remarks

The first part provides an overview of the respondents' backgrounds and language preferences. The second part presents the results collected through the survey. The third part summarises and analyses the findings presented in the two preceding parts. The fourth part outlines future measures for developing the chapters' JML work based on the areas identified in the survey results. The fifth and final part contains reflections and general concluding comments.

The survey was available in both Swedish and English.

1 The Respondents

The survey was completed by 56 people, 50 of whom responded to the Swedish version and 6 to the English version. As of spring 2026, the Royal Electrical Engineering Chapter had 626 members, and the Medical Engineering Chapter had 236 members.

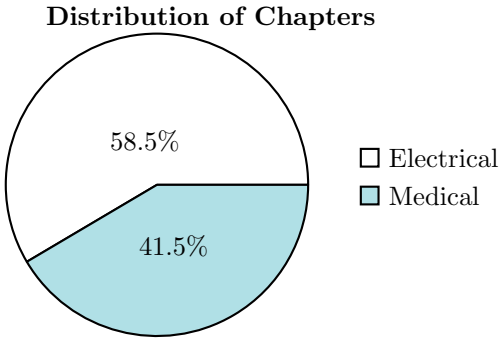


Figure 1: Responses to: *Which program are you in?* ***Optional question***
(53 responses)

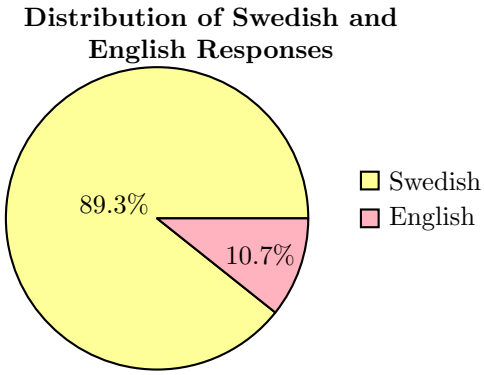


Figure 2: Responses to: *Which language do you prefer?*

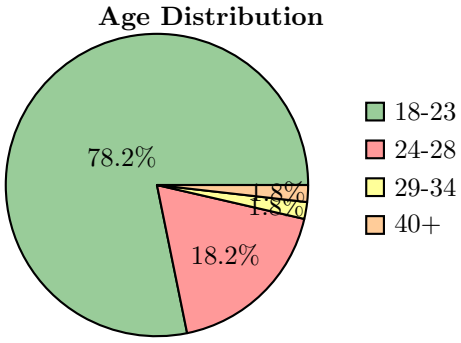


Figure 3: Responses to: *Which age group do you belong to?*

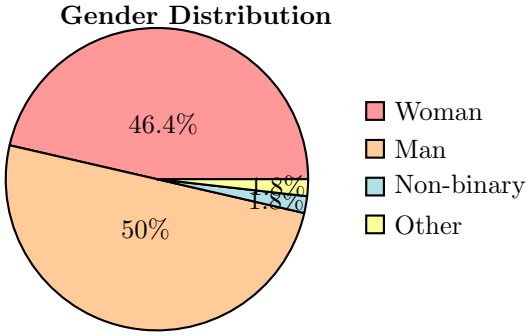


Figure 4: Responses to: *Which gender identity do you identify with?*

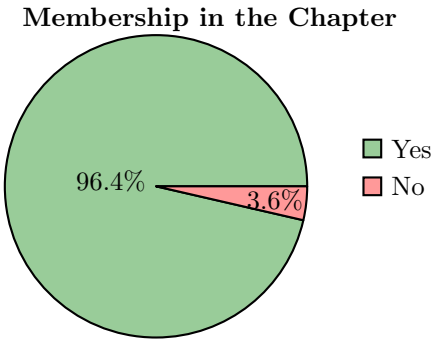


Figure 5: Responses to: *Are you a member of the chapter?*

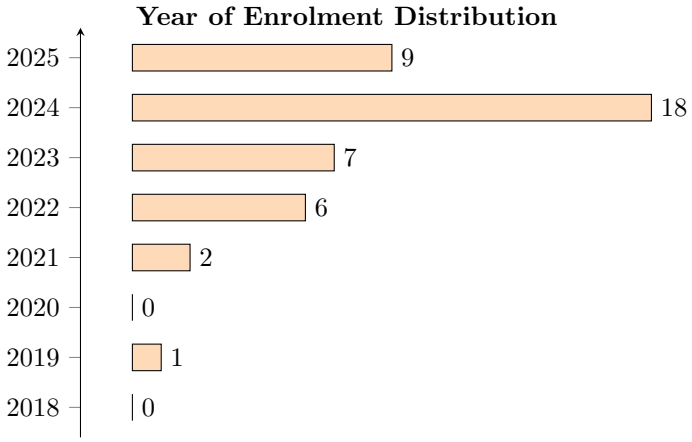


Figure 6: Responses to: *Which year did you start in the chapter?* ***Optional question (43 responses)***

2 Results of This Year's Survey

2.1 Inclusion in Chapter Life

The social environment within the chapters is generally described as positive, friendly and welcoming, with many students feeling at home and safe. Many respondents describe most people as sociable and inviting, and feel that the chapters have become more inclusive in recent years.

Although many students feel at home, some still do not feel as much at home as they would like. The responses indicate that there is a barrier to becoming part of the inclusive community. Distinct groups and "cliques" within the chapters make it difficult for new students, and for those who are not active in committees, to take part in all social settings and contribute to the chapter. Some respondents describe the chapter culture as hierarchical, and there are also comments about a perceived tension between Electrical Engineering and Medical Engineering students. In addition, the alcohol culture is highlighted as a factor that makes some students feel excluded and unwilling to attend events.

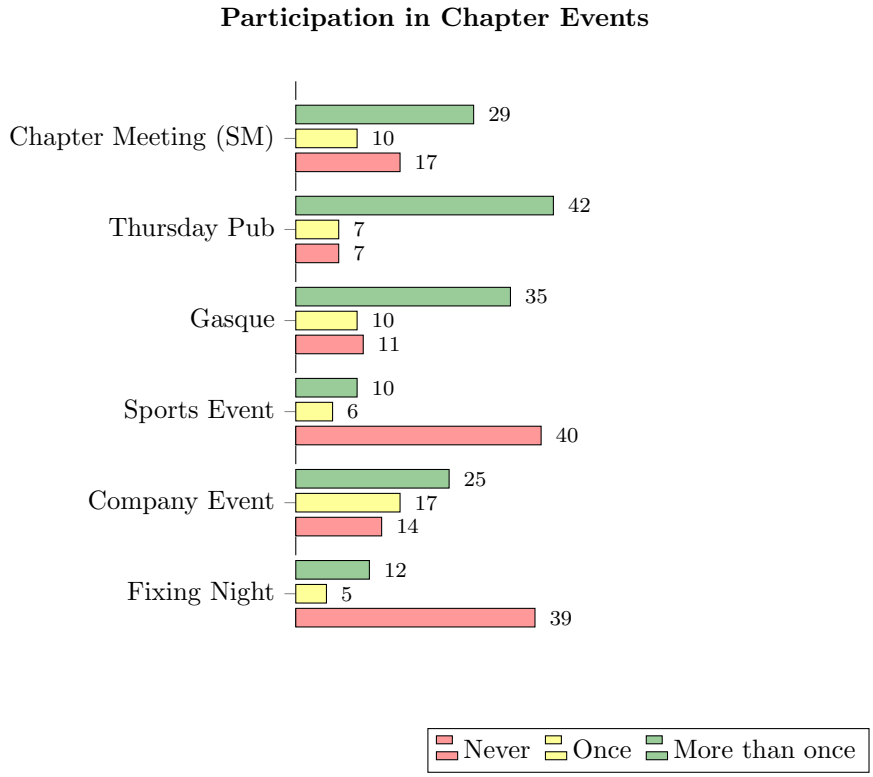


Figure 7: Responses to: *How many times have you participated in the following events over the past year?*

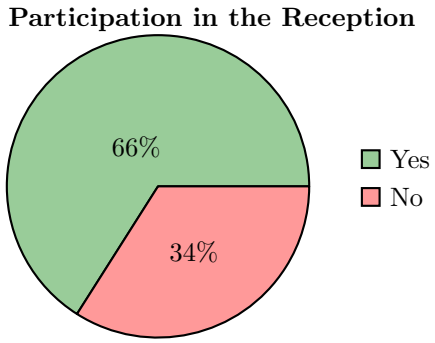


Figure 8: Responses to: *Did you participate in the reception this past year?*

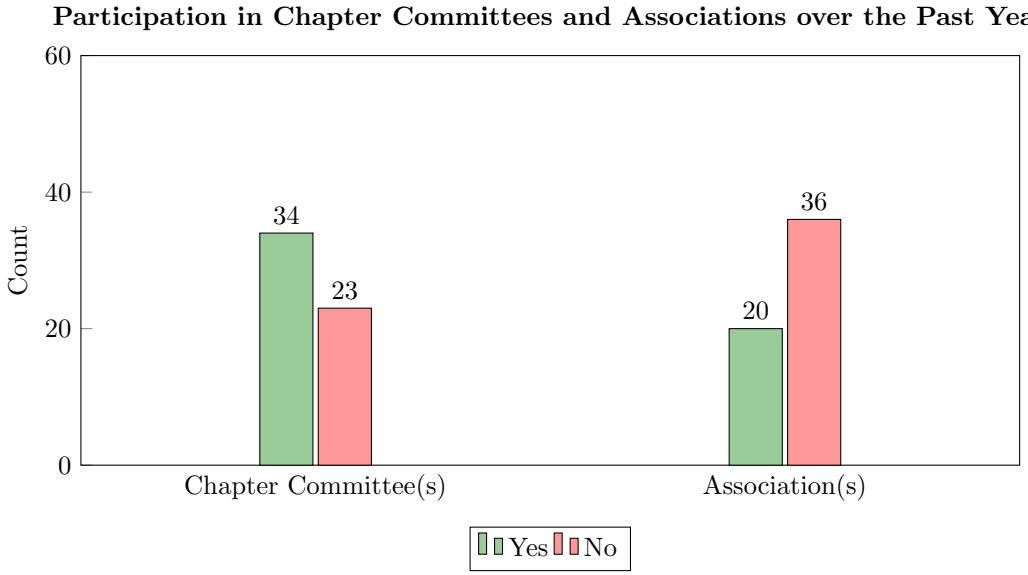


Figure 9: Responses to: *Have you been involved in any of the following over the past year?*

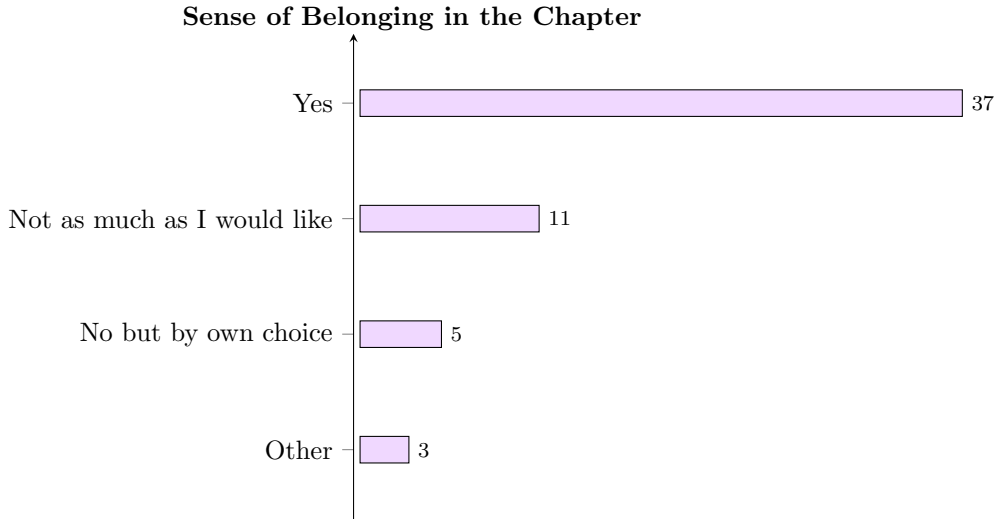


Figure 10: Responses to: *Do you feel at home in the chapter?*

Those who responded "Other" feel uncertain, or feel comfortable with some people but not with others. It was also mentioned that some feel at home in the chapter, although chapter life can sometimes be exhausting.

2.2 Occurrence of Discrimination and Harassment

Several respondents describe having experienced or witnessed harassment, discrimination or other inappropriate treatment within the chapters. The spreading of rumours is mentioned in several responses, with some respondents stating that rumours have been spread about themselves or about others. There are also descriptions of people being rude and excluding in conversations, as well as of more physical situations in which people have been pushed. Many respondents also perceive segregation and unequal treatment, both between Medical Engineering and Electrical Engineering students, and between committees and between genders. Most respondents state that this has happened in connection with the reception and at pubs, but also outside events, and that some people can generally be disrespectful in conversations.

International students point out that there is inequality in how people are treated, with Swedish-speaking students most often being favoured in chapter-related settings. The chapters are described as difficult to become part of, but once a person has been included, the community is described as stable and pleasant.

Regarding the reporting of harassment and discrimination, the responses indicate uncertainty about how to file a report, what actually happens after a report is made and how the process works. However, a large majority know where to submit a report. Several respondents therefore request clearer information about the process and suggest, for example, more regular posts on Instagram or on the chapters' websites.

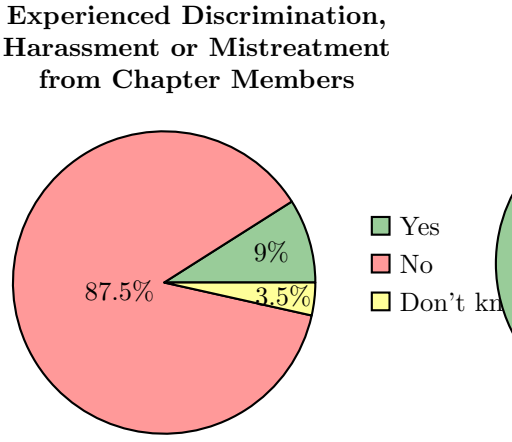


Figure 11: Responses to: *Have you been harassed, discriminated against, or in any way mistreated by other chapter members?*

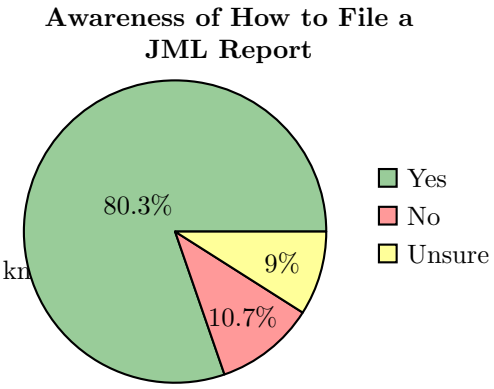


Figure 12: Responses to: *Do you know how to report if you have been harassed, discriminated against, or mistreated?*

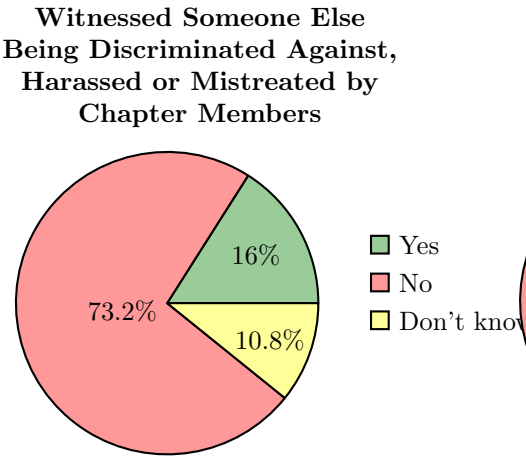


Figure 13: Responses to: *Have you seen someone else being harassed, discriminated against, or in any way mistreated by a chapter member?*

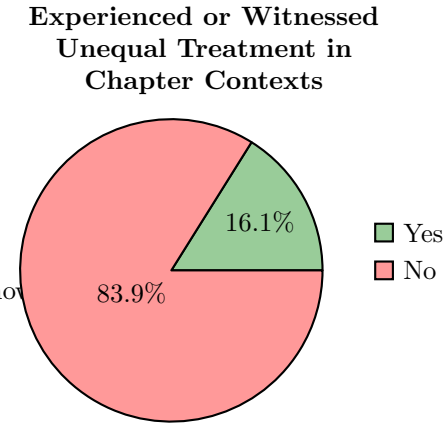


Figure 14: Responses to: *Have you experienced or seen someone else being treated unequally in a chapter-related context?*

2.3 Alcohol and Peer Pressure in the Chapters

Members' experiences of peer pressure and the alcohol culture within the chapters vary. Peer pressure is often described as taking the form of inside jokes among groups of friends, although several respondents point out that this may be perceived as social pressure by others who are unfamiliar with the group's jargon. Some respondents state that they felt the greatest pressure during the reception, both as buddies and as newly admitted students. Newly admitted students were sometimes encouraged to participate in activities they were not comfortable with because they feared being perceived as boring or being excluded. Other situations in which peer pressure and higher alcohol consumption are particularly common include the Sälen ski trip, gasques and after-parties.

Despite many respondents perceiving a strong alcohol culture within the chapters, most state that they have never felt questioned because of their alcohol consumption. The majority of members feel comfortable remaining sober at chapter events and feel that their choice is respected by others.

Many respondents believe that there is already a good balance between alcohol-free events and events where alcohol is served. However, there is a wish for more alcohol-free events to increase inclusion. Suggestions include more board game nights, movie nights, sewing circles and brunches, as well as activities such as picnics and museum visits.

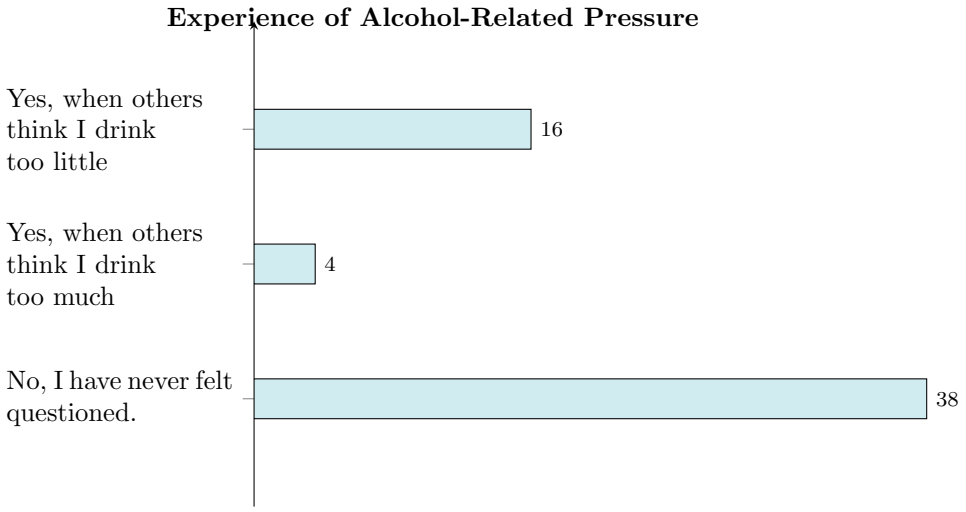


Figure 15: Responses to: *Have you felt questioned about your alcohol consumption?*

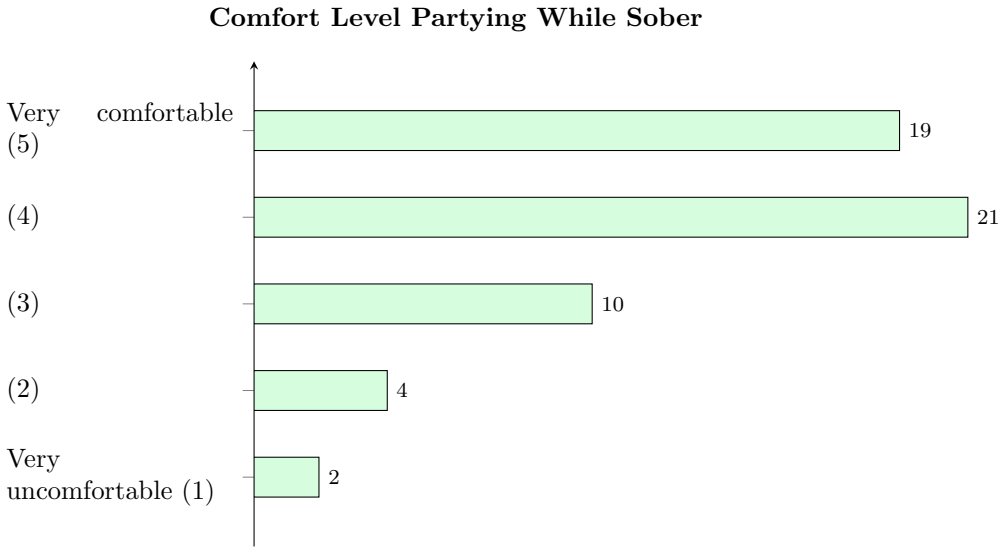


Figure 16: Responses to: *How comfortable are you attending a party while sober, on a scale from 1–5?*

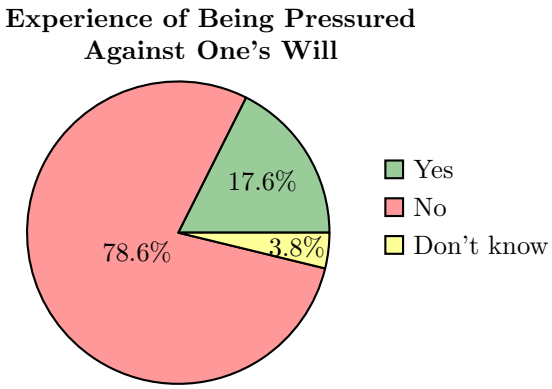


Figure 17: Responses to: *Have you been pressured into doing something against your will? (regarding alcohol or other things)*

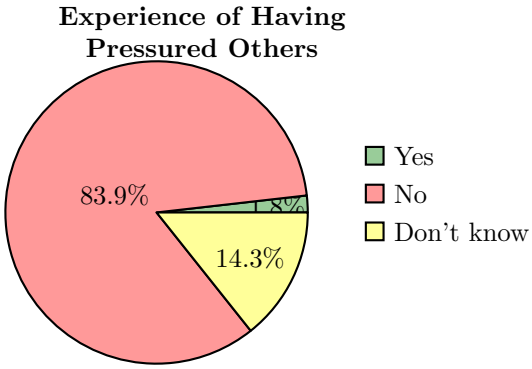


Figure 18: Responses to: *Have you pressured someone into doing something against their will? (regarding alcohol or other things)*

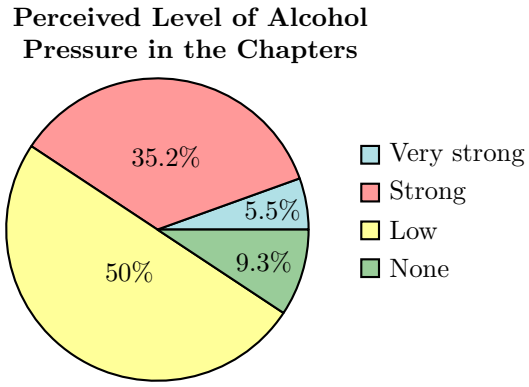


Figure 19: Responses to: *How strong do you perceive the alcohol pressure in the chapters to be?*

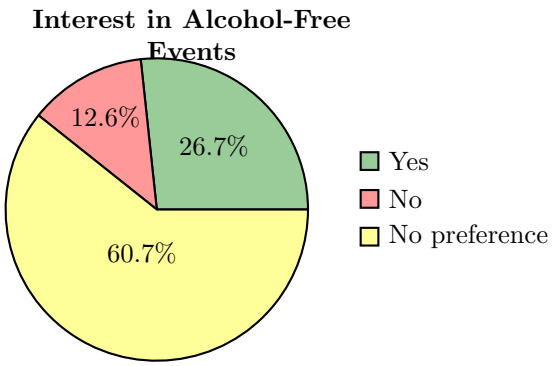


Figure 20: Responses to: *Would you like the chapters to organise more alcohol-free events?*

2.4 Exclusion

Many respondents have felt excluded in chapter-related settings. The majority of comments describe that this can happen naturally, as people connect better with some individuals than with others, and that it can feel more uncomfortable to spend time with those one does not connect with as well. It is highlighted that social energy matters: people who are shy, or who do not have the energy for as much social stimulation during their days, find it easier to end up on the outside in the chapter environment, since it can require taking up a lot of space oneself. How active a person is within the chapter, as well as the role they hold, is also described as affecting their social experience.

There are also barriers related to year groups and campus location. Some respondents mention that it can be difficult to get to know older students, since many of the activities take place at Tolvan while the older students themselves are at Campus Flemingsberg. Others describe that it can be difficult to socialise with older year groups who put down new ideas and already have an established culture in the chapter. Strong alcohol-related peer pressure during the reception, as well as having missed the reception, also makes it harder to be part of the chapter. Some respondents also feel that they do not know when chapter meetings and events are held, which makes them feel excluded.

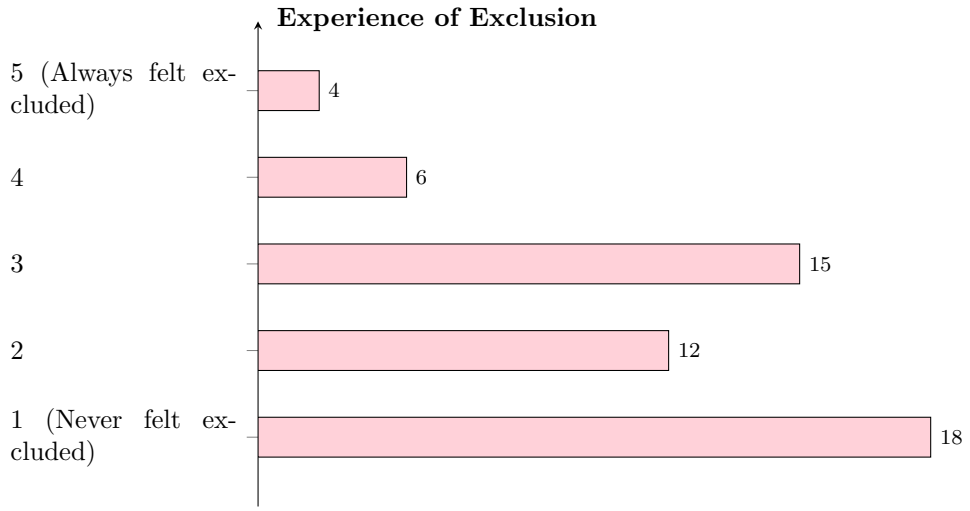


Figure 21: Responses to the statement: *I have felt excluded in chapter-related contexts. (5 = always, 1 = never)*

2.5 Access to Information in Chapter Life

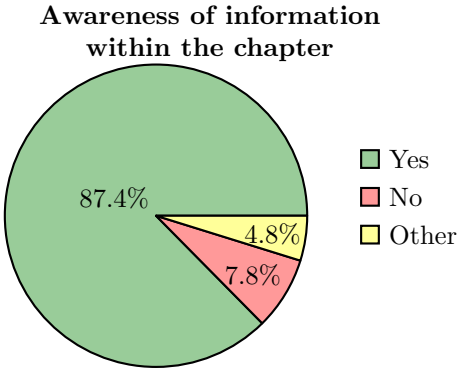


Figure 22: Responses to: *Do you feel you receive the information you need or want? (Chapter life)*

Those who responded "Other" feel that they sometimes, or in most cases, receive the information they want. Some felt that they would like more information about what the committees do and how to apply to join them. It was also mentioned that some respondents were unaware of the chapter's Discord server.

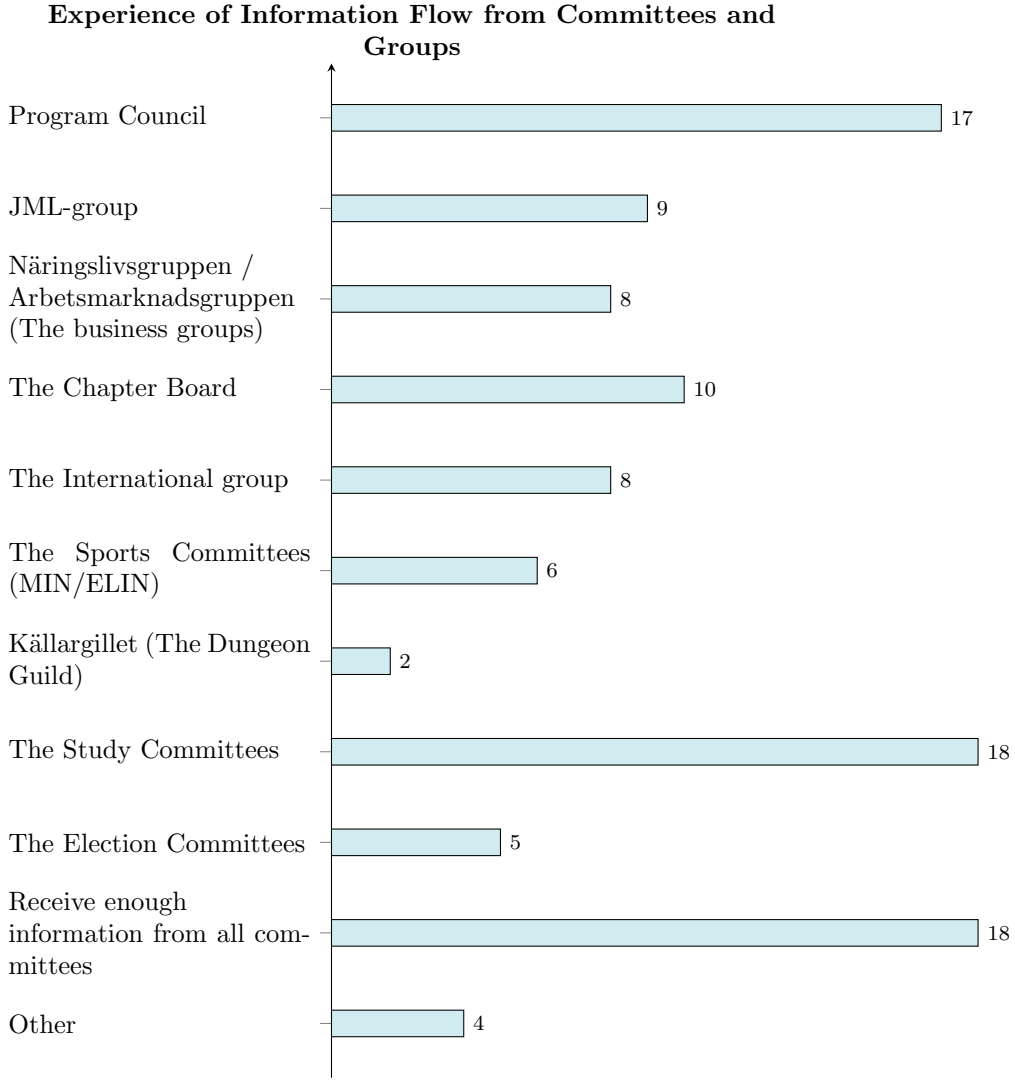


Figure 23: Responses to: *From which part of the chapters would you like to receive more information?*

Those who responded "Other" believe that information should be clearer and more consolidated, for example through a weekly story about upcoming events on the chapters' Instagram accounts.

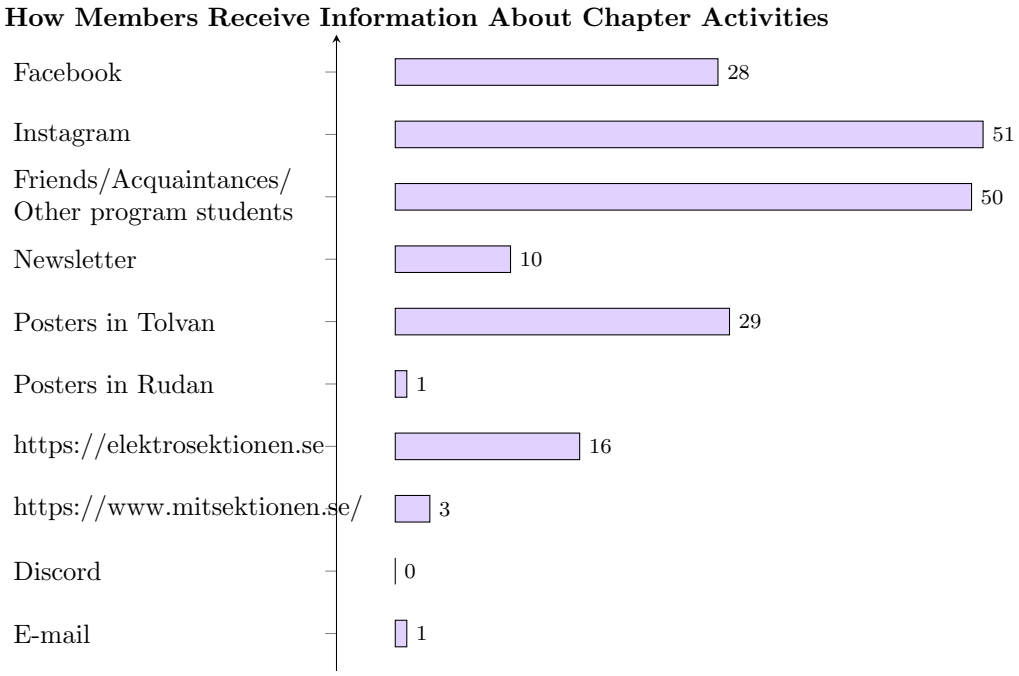


Figure 24: Responses to: *How do you RECEIVE information about what is happening in the chapters?*

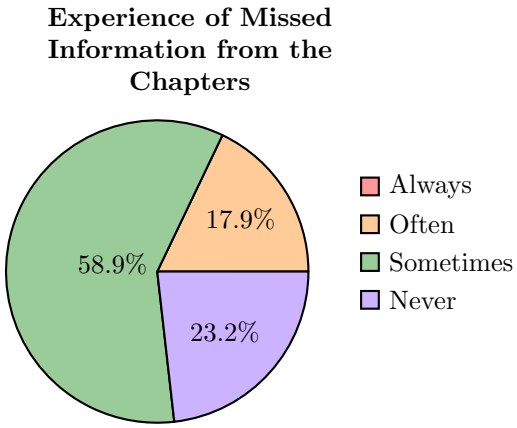


Figure 25: Responses to: *How frequently do you feel that you miss information from the chapters?*

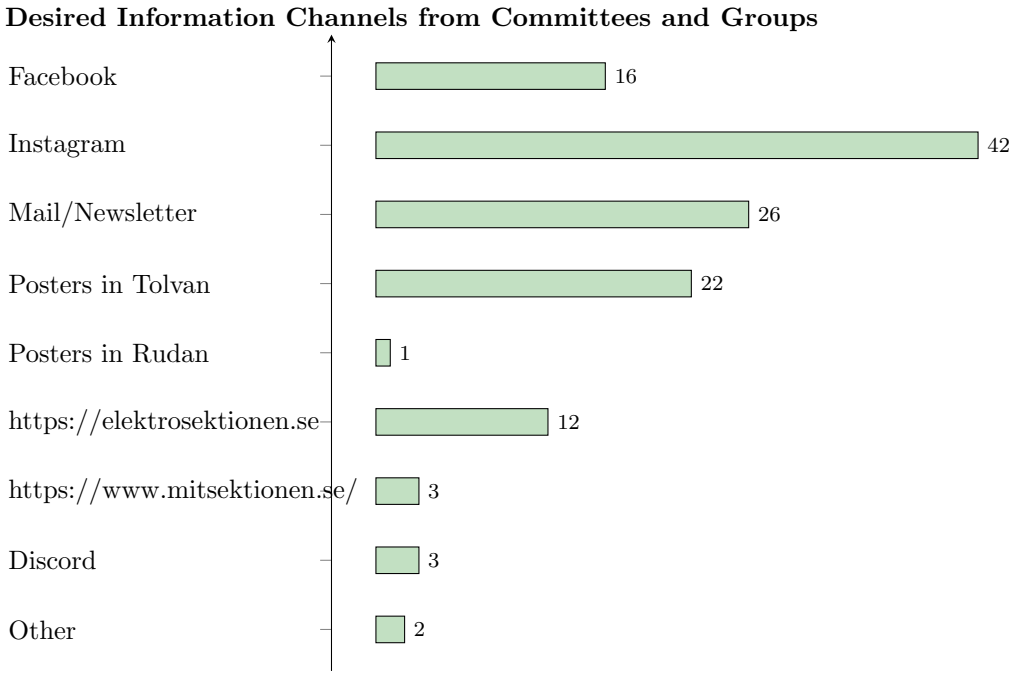


Figure 26: Responses to: *How WOULD you like to receive information about what is happening within the chapters?*

Those who responded "Other" request more information at chapter meetings (SM) or through other apps that are specifically intended for chapter information.

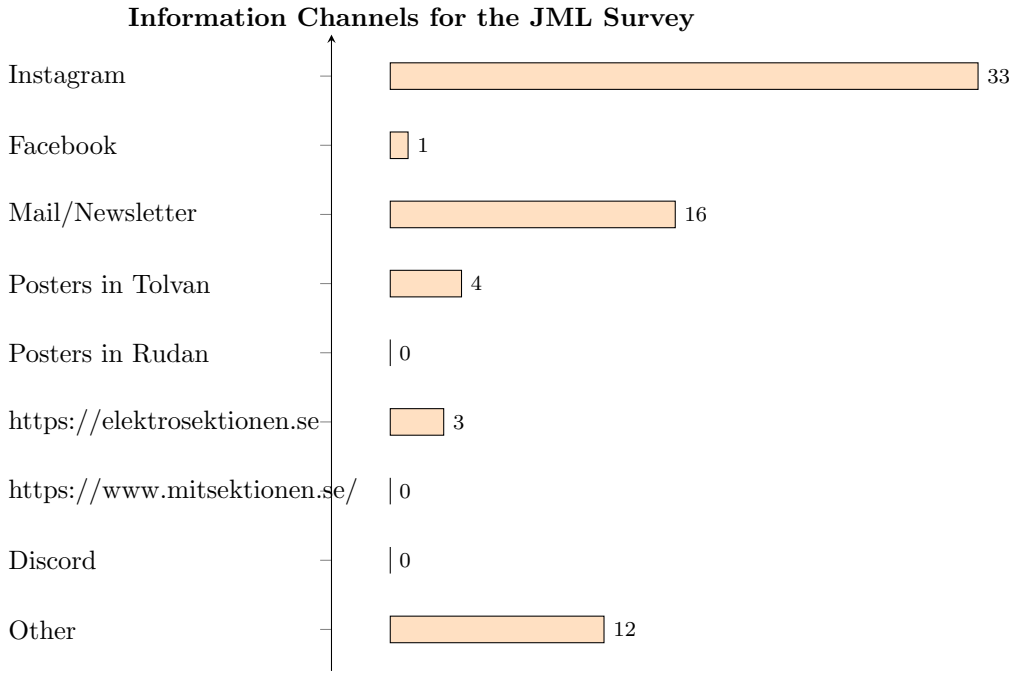


Figure 27: Responses to: *Where did you get information about this survey from?*

2.6 General

Among the suggestions regarding what the JML-group should focus on in the future, there was a particular emphasis on broadening the work on diversity. Many respondents feel that there is currently a clear focus on equality, while diversity issues tend to be overshadowed and therefore need more space. Respondents also called for measures to reduce the alcohol culture, as well as more activities that bring together students from different year groups and make it easier to include everyone in the community.

The final comments also indicate that the chapters need to clarify certain terms, since it was not obvious to everyone, for example, what a committee or an association actually is. Apart from this, several respondents thought that the survey was good and did not find anything unclear.

3 Analysis of the Results

This year's survey received 56 responses, half as many as last year's 116. Next year we will therefore need to review how the survey is marketed and distributed in order to reach more people. Furthermore, 40 of the 56 respondents are active in either committees or associations. It is therefore likely that the responses are biased, with perspectives on why people do not take part in chapter life missing. Overall, the results resemble last year's survey, and work on inclusion and on reducing the alcohol culture is still important.

3.1 Inclusion in Chapter Life

The results of this year's survey show two very different sides of inclusion in chapter life. A majority of respondents describe the environment as pleasant and feel at home in the chapter, which is positive and suggests a generally inclusive environment.

At the same time, a certain share of respondents feel excluded or less involved than they would like. There is a certain threshold to cross, where one is expected to dare to take up more space, which can feel difficult for some of those who want to be more included. Several respondents specifically describe the chapter as unwelcoming to new members, and it can also be perceived as laddish and hierarchical, with many cliques. In addition, the alcohol culture makes it harder for those who do not drink, or who do not want to attend festive events, to find their place. Working towards more inclusion and less hierarchy is therefore important, especially when it comes to bringing newly admitted and international students into the chapter.

Engagement in the chapter varies depending on the event. Thursday pubs and gasques attract the most people, but chapter meetings and company events are also popular. Many respondents state that they sometimes miss information from the chapters, and a small share find it difficult to keep track of what the different committees and associations actually do, which creates a further obstacle to participating and feeling included in the chapter.

3.2 Occurrence of Discrimination and Harassment

The results show that approximately 9 % of respondents have at some point felt discriminated against, harassed or otherwise mistreated by someone in the chapter. This is lower than last year, when the figure was 13.6 %. The share of respondents who have witnessed someone else being discriminated against, harassed or otherwise mistreated is 16 %, the same share as the year before. Continued work against harassment and discrimination remains important in order to lower this share and make more members feel safe in the chapter.

The contexts in which members state that they have felt mistreated, or have

seen others being mistreated, are pubs, the reception and after-parties, but also generally outside events. In addition to these contexts, several members raise the problem of rumours spreading within the chapter and of some groups putting others down.

Regarding the reporting of harassment and discrimination, the results indicate that a large majority know where to turn in order to file a report. However, there is uncertainty about how the reporting process works, what happens after a report has been made and how the case is handled further. This points to a need for clearer and more accessible information about the process, for example regular Instagram posts and posts on the chapters' websites, in order to actively clarify the support and contact channels available to members.

3.3 Alcohol and Peer Pressure in the Chapters

The survey responses show that alcohol is a central part of chapter life, but that there are two different sides to the alcohol culture within the chapters. The majority state that they feel comfortable remaining sober and that their choice is respected by others. At the same time, it is clear that there is an invisible expectation around alcohol. The peer pressure is rarely perceived as an explicit obligation to drink, but rather as an internal jargon within established groups of friends.

Even though such jokes often stay within the group of friends, there is a risk that they are carried over into open chapter settings, which may unintentionally create pressure on other members. The fact that peer pressure is perceived as strongest during the reception also suggests that the norm around alcohol is set very early in chapter life. Continued work within the chapters is therefore important, in order to actively show that sobriety and alcohol-free alternatives are an equally natural choice.

3.4 Exclusion

The analysis of the survey responses shows that a majority experience low levels of exclusion. However, several respondents describe that it is difficult to find one's place in the chapter and to enter the social environment, especially when they are new or have not taken part much in the reception. Established groups, differences between year groups and campuses, and a strong alcohol culture also make it harder to be part of the community. This shows the importance of creating more natural ways into the community, regardless of year group, campus or previous involvement in the chapter.

3.5 General

The views raised under "General" in the survey indicate that the JML work is perceived as having a clear focus on equality, but that there is a wish to broaden the work and the events towards a greater focus on diversity and inclusion.

Continued work on the alcohol culture is also needed, as well as more opportunities for mingling between different year groups. In addition, the responses show that clearer information about chapter-related terms is required, in order to make it easier for more people to understand and take part in chapter life.

4 Future Measures

Based on the results of this year's survey, a number of areas have been identified where the chapters should continue to develop their JML work. The measures focus mainly on inclusion & diversity, alcohol culture, the handling of harassment and discrimination, and on improving the survey's reach and representativeness. The aim is for the measures to be feasible to carry out and follow up ahead of next year's survey.

4.1 Increased Inclusion and Reduced Hierarchy

The chapters should continue their work to create a more inclusive social environment, particularly for newly admitted students, international students and people who have not previously been active in chapter life. A special focus should be on reducing the perception of hierarchies and cliques within the chapters.
This can be done by, among other things:

- creating more social activities that are easy to join even without a prior connection to chapter life,
- encouraging events where students from different year groups and groups meet,
- reviewing how new members are introduced to chapter life,
- actively counteracting cultures and behaviours that create distinct cliques or hierarchies.

4.2 Clearer Work on Alcohol and Peer Pressure

Since alcohol-related events are among the best attended, while several of the reported incidents happen in these settings, the alcohol culture should remain a priority area. It must be clear that taking part in social activities does not require drinking, and that no one should feel pressured to drink. How alcohol and alcohol-related activities are presented in connection with social events should be reviewed.

The chapters will also work to increase the number of alcohol-free events during the year, in order to create more social settings where the activity is the focus, and in this way reduce the central role of alcohol within the chapters.

4.3 Clearer Support Channels in Cases of Harassment and Discrimination

The fact that relatively few of those who have experienced harassment or discrimination have chosen to take the matter further shows a need to make

the support channels clearer and more accessible. Members should know where to turn and feel confident that their experiences will be taken seriously.

During the coming operational year, the JML-group will therefore produce clear information on how a report is made, describe what happens after a report has been made and which people handle the case, and work to make the information more accessible to all members.

4.4 Lowering the Threshold to Chapter Life

The results show that the social setting can be difficult to enter for people who are new to the chapter or who have not previously been very active. The chapters should therefore work to lower the threshold for participation and create more natural ways into the community.

A special focus should be on creating activities that do not require participants to already know people in the chapter or to have experience of chapter life. The possibility of more activities that are not connected to alcohol should also be looked into.

As part of the work to promote diversity and increase inclusion, a joint JML event is planned in collaboration with other chapters at KTH. The event will consist of an evening with various activities and aims to give students of different backgrounds and chapter affiliations an opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed setting.

4.5 Greater Reach and Representativeness in Future Surveys

This year's survey had 56 respondents, compared with 116 the year before. In addition, a large share of the respondents were already active in committees or associations. The results should therefore be interpreted with some caution, as the perspectives of less active or entirely inactive chapter members may be underrepresented.
For upcoming surveys, the way they are distributed should therefore be reviewed. The goal should be to reach a larger and more representative share of the chapters' members. This could be done, for example, by:

- starting to promote the survey earlier,
- using more communication channels,
- actively targeting information at students who are not active in the chapters,
- communicating more clearly why it matters that people who do not take part in chapter life also respond.

By following up on these areas in future surveys, the chapters can better assess whether the measures taken have had the desired effect and identify new areas that need to be prioritised.

5 Final Remarks

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who took the time to answer the survey. It is your responses and thoughts that make it possible for us to understand how chapter life is actually experienced, and how we in the JML-group can continue working to create a safer and more inclusive place for everyone in the chapters.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, suggestions for events or just want to talk. No problem is too big or too small to be raised, and we are always here to listen and support you!

