

# Situation Assessment of the Results of JML Survey

Chapter of Electrical Engineering and Chapter of Medical Engineering

2021



## Introduction

The following document is a summary of responses to the *JML Equality and Diversity Survey* performed by the joint Equality Committee of the Chapters of Electrical Engineering and Medical Engineering in the spring of 2021. The survey consisted of four parts:

1. Inclusion in student life and activities
2. Alcohol and pressure within the Chapters
3. Access to information pertaining to the Chapters
4. Information about the respondents

The survey and response analysis were carried out by Silvia Barrett and Stretch from the Chapter of Electrical Engineering, and Matilda Landström from the Chapter of Medical Engineering. The analysis is broken down into four parts:

1. The Respondents
2. Assessment Results
3. Conclusion
4. Closing Words

Part 1 provides general information about the respondents, and Part 2 describes the survey responses collected. Part 3 summarizes the conclusions drawn from the preceding parts.

# 1 The Respondents

The survey received a total of 122 responses, with the Swedish version of the survey accounting for 114 responses, and the English for 8. The Chapter of Electrical Engineering numbered 465 members as of this spring; the Chapter of Medical Engineering had 160 members at the same time. The distribution of respondents between chapters can be viewed in figure 1. Many Master's Degree students in the Electrical Engineering program are studying abroad and so cannot participate in activities, which makes them difficult to reach.

As seen in figure 2, the majority of respondents are men <sup>1</sup>. The most common age range is 20-22 years, as seen in figure 3. Figure 4 shows that 85% of respondents are members of their Chapter. Non-member respondents attribute their non-membership chiefly to a lack of activities during the pandemic, a desire to save money, and personally not feeling the need to be a member.

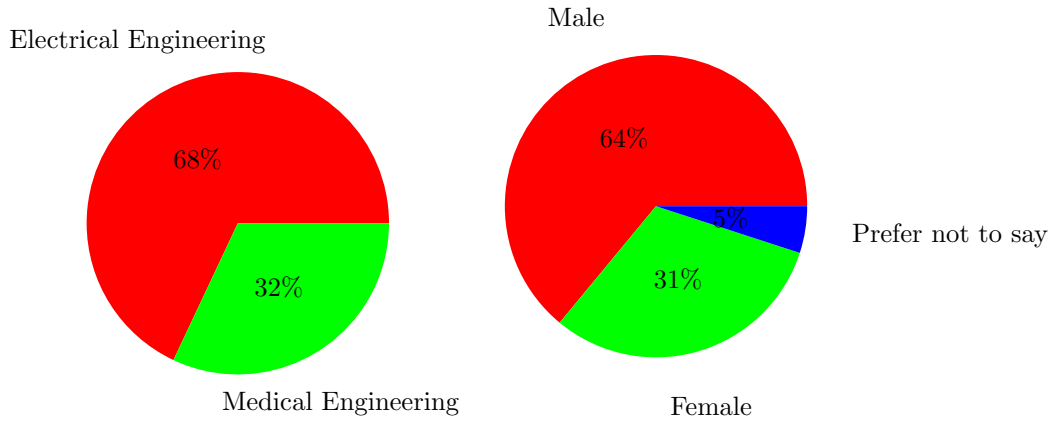


Figure 1: Responses to the question *Which program are you enrolled in?*

Figure 2: Responses to the question *What is your gender identity?*

<sup>1</sup>The figure depicts the gender options that were selected by respondents. More options for gender were available in the survey.

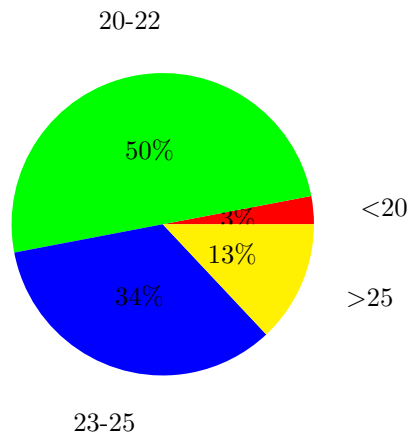


Figure 3: Responses to the question *How old are you?*

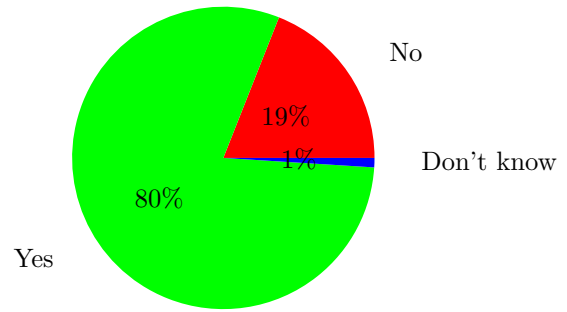


Figure 4: Responses to the question *Are you a member of your Chapter?*

## 2 Assessment Results

### 2.1 Inclusion in Student Life

Figure 5 shows the respondents' participation in various Chapter activities. The number next to each bar corresponds to the number of respondents who selected the option (122 being the total number of respondents). Approximately 49% of respondents have participated in the reception activities, which, along with Chapter meetings and Discord pubs, comprise the Chapter activities with the most participants. Approximately 30% of respondents have been engaged in Committees within their Chapters in the past year, and approximately 27% in clubs within the same time span.

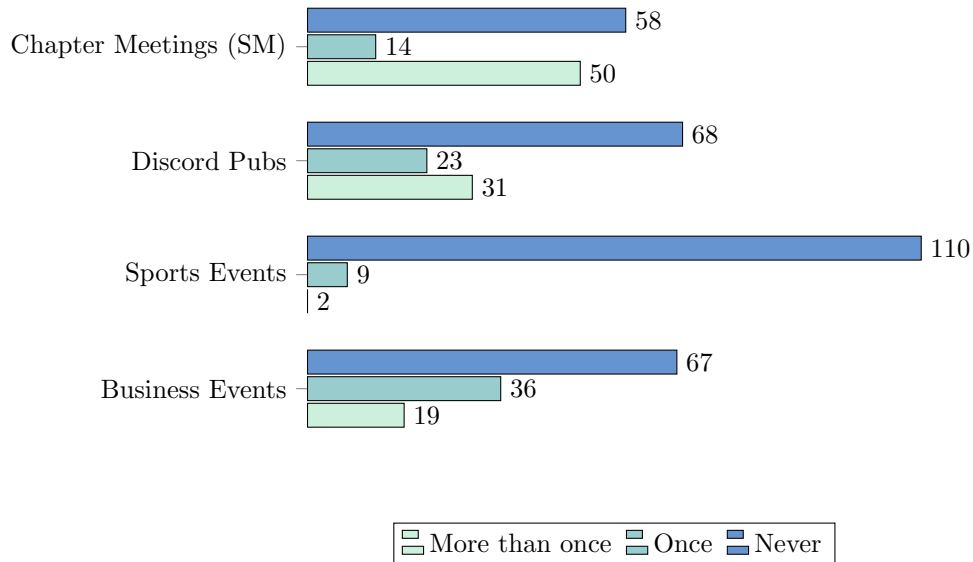


Figure 5: Responses to the question *How many times have you participated in the following events in the past year?*

The following section pertains to the questions on harassment and on the general atmosphere within the Chapters. As shown in figures 6 and 7, in the past year approximately 9% of respondents have been harassed, discriminated against, or otherwise treated poorly within their Chapters, and 11% have witnessed the above happening to someone else. The survey had an option to elaborate on one's response. Several of the answers cited sexual harassment, personal attacks during Chapter meetings, and generally poor reception of certain people. Several of these took place in situations where alcohol was involved.

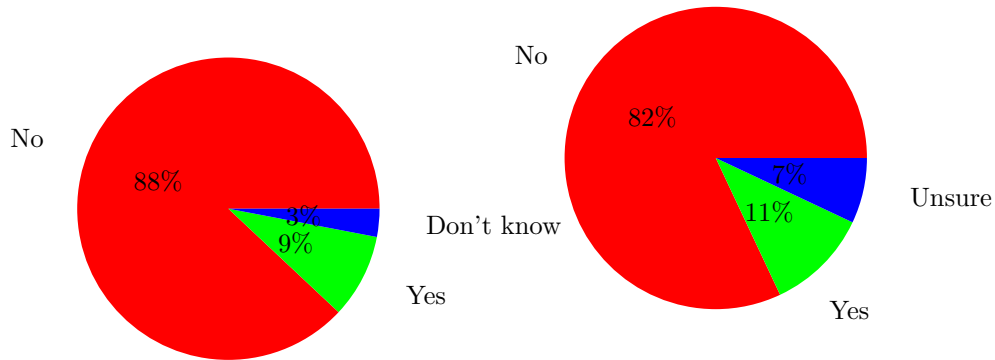


Figure 6: Responses to the question *Have you been harassed, discriminated against, or otherwise been treated poorly in the Chapters?*

Figure 7: Responses to the question *Have you seen someone else being harassed, discriminated against, or otherwise being treated poorly in the Chapters?*

As seen in figure 8, an approximate half of respondents know how to report harassment, while more than a quarter are uncertain. Respondents had an option to add where they would like to find this information. Several respondents proposed social media, KTH.se, the THS website, and the Chapters' respective websites. Other suggestions included Discord and the bulletin board at Tolvan.

The question *Have you experienced that you, or someone else, has been receiving special treatment?* had an option to elaborate on one's response. Several respondents reported that members holding certain posts within their Chapters, being members of certain groups or committees, or branded as "old and cranky" receive special treatment. Respondents perceived that these people are above consequences when it comes to their behavior, for instance during Chapter Meetings. Other pertinent issues include Medical Engineering students feeling eclipsed by the Chapter of Electrical Engineering, as well as gender-based discrimination, primarily in how male students treat female students. Additional responses described negative attitudes towards students who are not active in their chapters, students who struggle with the Swedish language, and towards specific individuals.

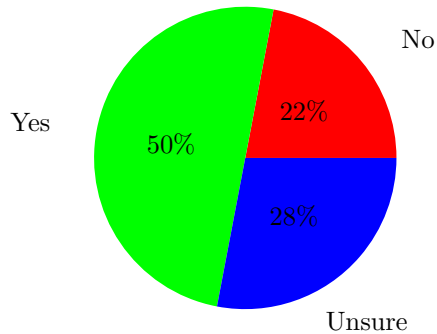


Figure 8: Responses to the question *Do you know how to report harassment, discrimination, or poor treatment in the Chapters?*

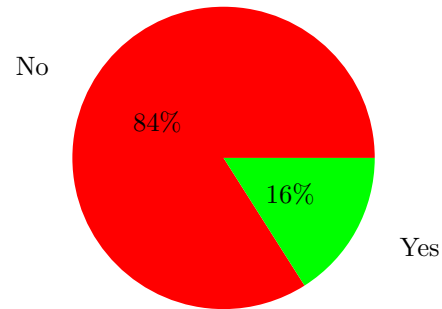


Figure 9: Responses to the question *Have you experiences that you, or someone else, has been receiving special treatment?*

Most of the respondents feel at home in their Chapters, as can be seen in figure 10. Respondents had the option to elaborate with a comment. Several respondents expressed struggles with feeling at home due to the pandemic putting the bulk of Chapter activities on hold. Several responded that they do not feel at home due to the people and the reigning attitudes within their Chapters. Some respondents considered themselves to be too old.

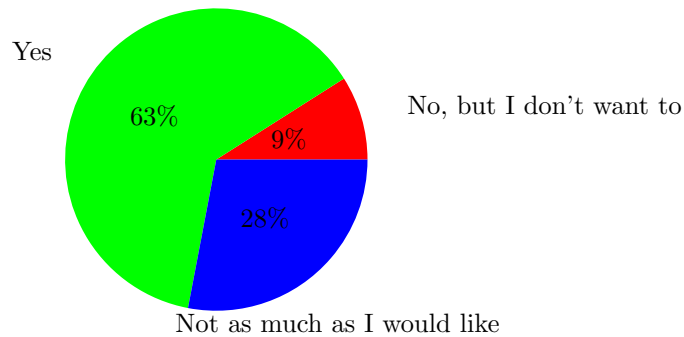


Figure 10: Responses to the question *Do you feel at home in the Chapters?*

The question *How do you experience the social environment of the Chapters?* prompted the respondents for a text answer. The majority considered the atmosphere to be good, and approximately 16% had difficulties telling due to the constraints of the pandemic. Notable responses described the social environment as uncomfortable, “macho”, and esoteric.

## 2.2 Access to Information

To the question *Do you feel that you are reached by the information you need/want? (From the Chapters)*, the vast majority (82%) responded yes. Figure 11 shows that many receive information from their peers, as well as via Facebook. Figure 12 shows that the majority feel that they receive the necessary information from their Chapters. A portion of respondents express that they would like to receive more information from specific parts of the Chapter. Most would prefer to receive this information via Facebook, or through e-mail/newsletters, as illustrated in figure 13.

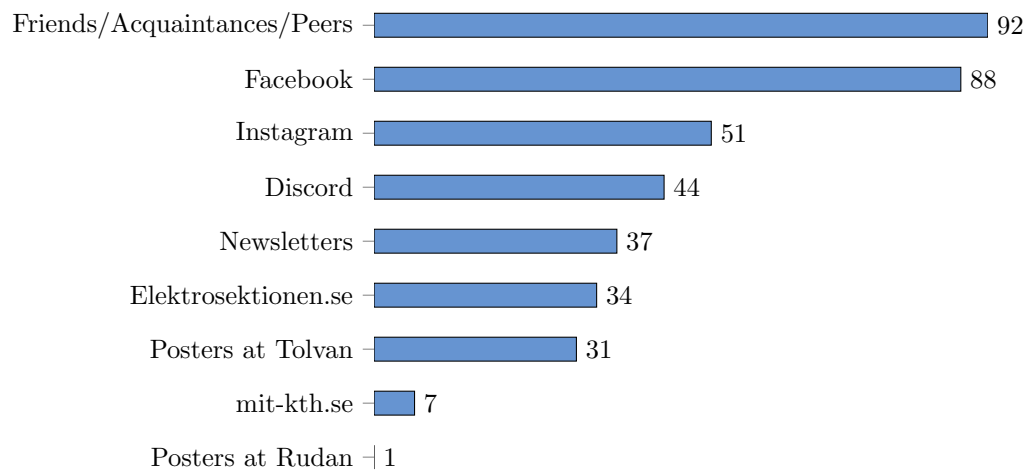


Figure 11: Responses to the question *How do you get information about what is happening within the Chapters?*



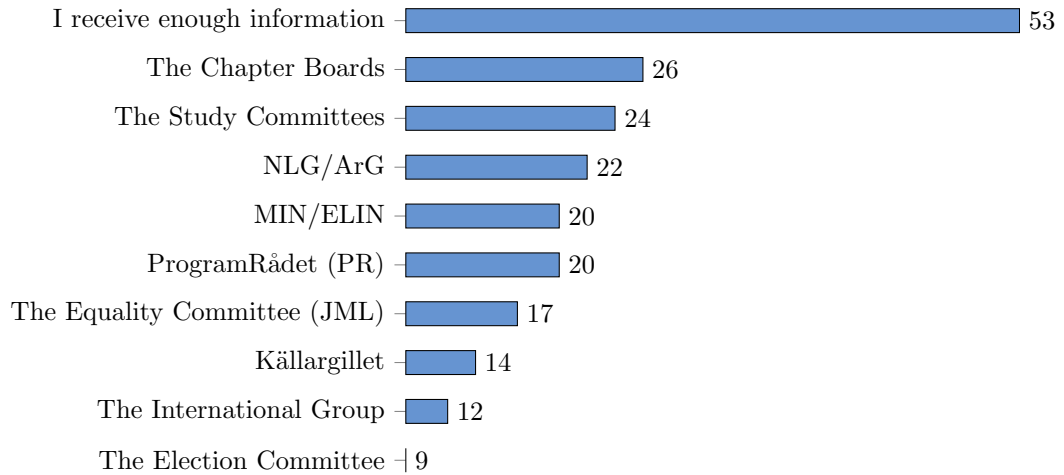


Figure 12: Responses to the question *From which parts of the Chapters would you like to receive more information?*

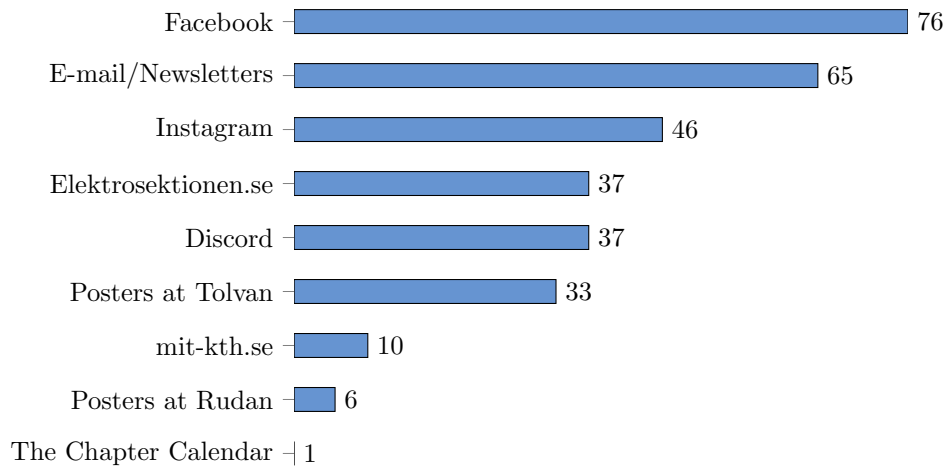


Figure 13: Responses to the question *How would you like to get information about what is happening within the Chapters?*

### 2.3 Alcohol/Pressure

19% of respondents have felt questioned on grounds of their alcohol consumption, as shown in figure 14.

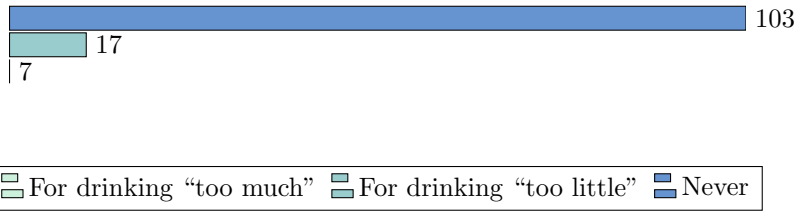


Figure 14: Responses to the question *Have you ever felt that you were questioned because of your alcohol consumption?*

A comparison of figures 15 and 16 shows that more have felt pressured than felt that they were the ones exerting pressure. More respondents felt uncertain about whether they themselves exerted pressure, than about whether they were pressured. Both figures show that the vast majority of respondents have neither been pressured nor exerted pressure.

The question *Have you ever pressured someone to do something against their will? (Either related to alcohol or something else)* gave the respondents the option to elaborate with a text answer. Several respondents admitted that they have jokingly pressured friends. Some respondents were uncertain as they did not know how the interaction was perceived by others.

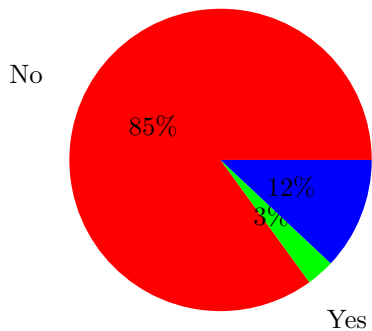


Figure 15: Responses to the question *Have you ever pressured someone to do something against their will? (Either related to alcohol or something else)*

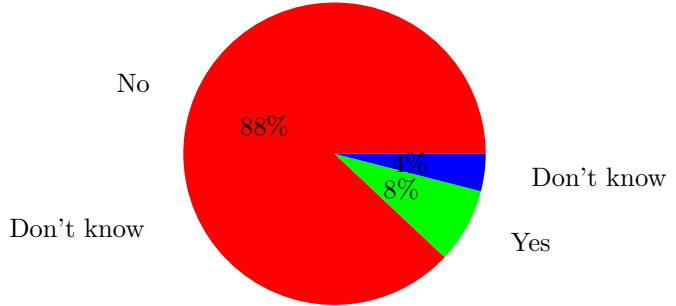


Figure 16: Responses to the question *Have you ever been pressured to do something against your will? (Either related to alcohol or something else)*

The respondents were asked to rate the intensity of the pressure to drink within the Chapters. The results can be viewed in figure 17.

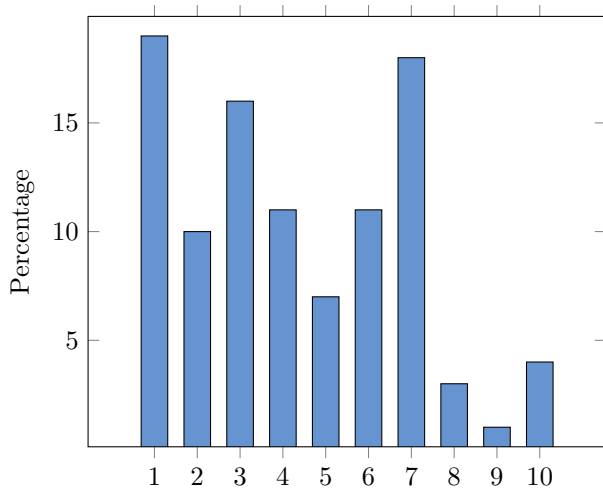


Figure 17: Responses to the question *How strong do you think the pressure to drink is in the Chapters?*

Figure 18 shows that the vast majority feel comfortable with being sober at a party. Most added that it is not viewed in a negative light, but that it is less fun. Some responded that they have felt excluded while sober at the type of parties where being extremely inebriated is the norm, to the point where they felt they needed an excuse for being sober at these parties.

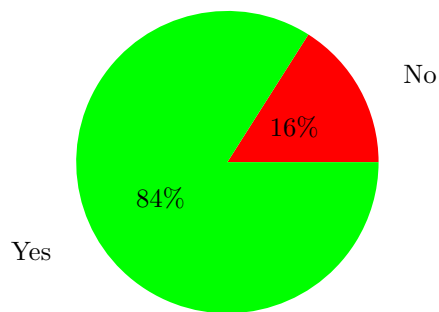


Figure 18: Responses to the question *Are you comfortable with going to a party and being sober?*

60% of respondents answered no to the question *Do you want the Chapters to arrange more alcohol-free events?*. Those who answered yes had the option to elaborate in a text answer. Suggestions submitted include gaming nights, movie

nights, sports events, dinners, sewing circles, and business events. Various types of outdoor activities and education-related events were also proposed.

### 3 Conclusion

The constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic have complicated comparison of this year's survey to its precedents, largely due to the severe limitations imposed on events where students interact in person. We have nevertheless chosen to contextualize this year's results by comparing them to the ones collected in last year's survey, while still acknowledging the impact the pandemic may have had on the results.

The numbers show fewer participants in this year's Chapter events than there were last year, despite many events being re-adjusted to take place online. The same applies to engagement in clubs and Chapter committees.

Last year's report shows that 7% of respondents had experienced harassment or been treated poorly within the Chapters. This year, that percentage has risen to 9%. Similarly, a smaller fraction of respondents know how to report harassment, which could potentially be a result of the "Unsure" option being added in this year's survey.

The percentage of respondents who had noticed special treatment is notably lower this year (down to 16% from last year's 25%.)

The social platform Discord was added as an alternative in the questions regarding preferred sources of information, and was the fourth most popular option in both questions.

This year's numbers show a minor decrease in the percentage of students who have felt questioned due to their alcohol consumption (down to 19% from last year's 21%.) The percentages of respondents who have been pressured or exerted pressure were similarly lower. This year's survey introduced an "I don't know" option to both questions. Furthermore, 84% of respondents were comfortable attending parties sober (up from last year's 80%.) It is, however, worth noting that all statistics pertaining to alcohol have likely been significantly impacted by the pandemic, as very few events where alcohol is normally served were able to transpire.

The atmosphere within the Chapters is perceived by the majority as good, but by a significant fraction of respondents as macho and esoteric. This stands in concord with the results of the preceding years.

A portion of this year's responses reports special treatment towards the occupants of certain posts within the Chapters, with privileges extending to friends of these people. This is a recurring concern from previous years.

## 4 Closing Words

The structure of this year's survey has been altered to accommodate for the changes in Chapter activity brought on by Covid-19. Options pertaining to cancelled events were removed.

Furthermore, this year's survey has been expanded with the following questions: *Have you seen someone being harassed, discriminated against, or in any other way being treated poorly in the Chapters?*, *Do you feel at home in the Chapters?* and *How strong do you think the pressure to drink is in the Chapters?*.