

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS - PANAMA

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I. INTRODUCTION

- Research Purpose:

Investigate how students from backgrounds outside of engineering and STEM participate in the club. examine the retention of group members within clubs

- Objective: to ascertain a collection of quantitative data through survey questions and qualitative data through personal follow-up interviews with survey participants.



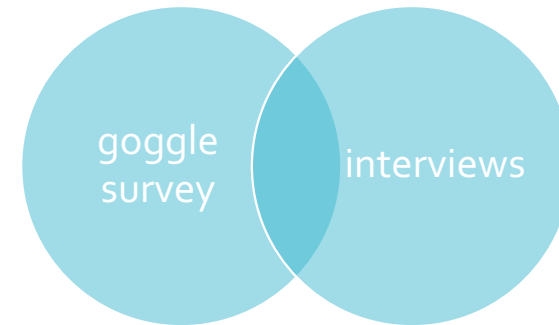
II. LITERATURE REVIEW

- “more involved students reported greater development in moving through autonomy toward interdependence and establishing and clarifying purpose. Meanwhile, uninvolved students had consistently lower developmental scores. Additionally, involvement in clubs and organizations has been shown to correlate positively with several areas of psychosocial development for undergraduate students (Foubert 2006).”
- “findings show that efforts made to strengthen organizational identification will have a greater payoff in terms of the duration of the member’s relationship with the nonprofit (Di Feng, Paul W. Fombelle, Ruth N. Bolton).”
- “students who participated in numerous extracurricular activities and held officer roles scored significantly higher in the Social Responsibility Leadership Scale (SRLS).”

III. METHODS

- There are various opportunities within EWB that could greatly benefit from an interdisciplinary cohort of new members even outside engineering majors.
- Another thing we look to assess through our qualitative survey is how enticing the experience abroad through EWB is to the general student population.

Broken down into two subsections:



A. SURVEY

CLUB MEMBERS

- Have you heard of the club Engineers Without Borders(EWB)?
- If you answered yes to the previous question, are you a member?
- What clubs are you apart of on campus?
- How many of these clubs would you say you have a vested interest in (4+ months of membership)?
- If you did not select 0 in the previous question, why do you have a vested interest in this club?
- For the club you have been with the longest, what aspect of the club do you like the most?
- How did you find out about the clubs you are apart of?
- If you selected 'other' in the previous question, please elaborate on your experience.

NO CLUB MEMBERS

- Have you heard of the club Engineers Without Borders?
- If so, how did you hear about it? Is there a particular reason you are not a member?

B. INTERVIEW - QUESTIONS

Background

- How long have you been a member of EWB?
- How did you first hear about EWB?
- What are some of the reasons you have stayed with the club as long as you have?
- Do you know anyone who is considering joining EWB or considered joining in the past but decided against it?

Improvements

- Is there anything you want to see improved within EWB?
- What do you think EWB can do to attract and retain more members?

C. INTERVIEW - ANSWERS

NEW EWB MEMBERS

- Two new members in EWB were interviewed, both first-year engineering students.

OLD EWB MEMBERS

- Two veteran EWB members were interviewed, both being project leads in EWB Panama

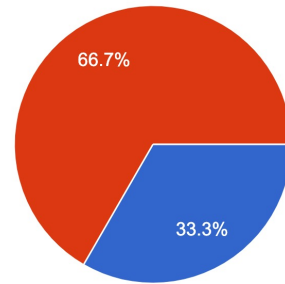
Takeaways:

- New EWB members have found some club content to be too complicated for their coursework (i.e. have not taken necessary classes yet)
- Veterans think new members can benefit from a learning service provided by the club
- Members heard about the club via word of mouth, $\frac{3}{4}$ had friends who used to be in EWB but are not anymore

IV. RESULTS - GENERAL

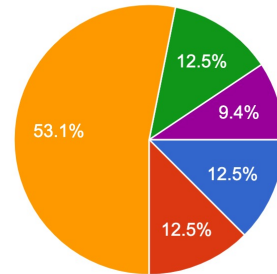
Have you heard of the club Engineers Without Borders?

3 responses



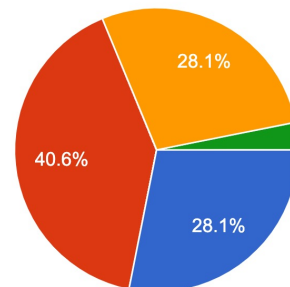
What is your year?

32 responses



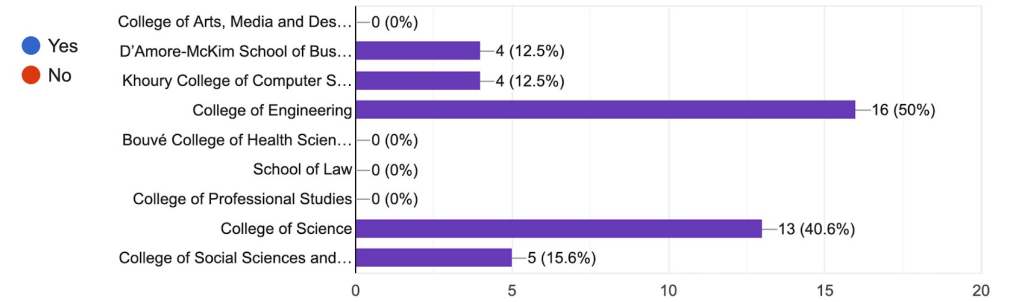
How many co-op experiences do you have?

32 responses



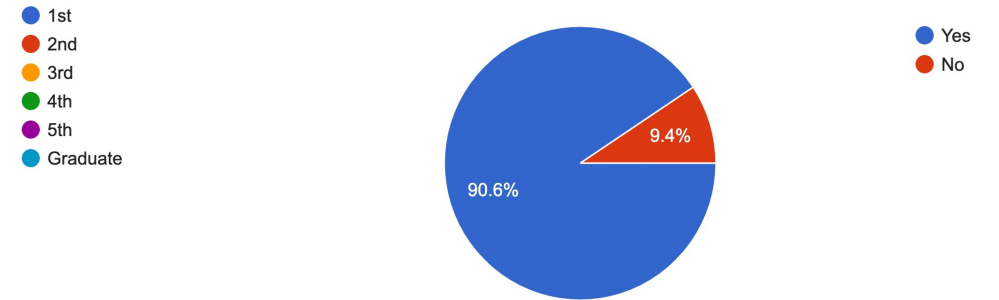
Which colleges and schools are you part of? Select all that apply.

32 responses



Are you a member of any clubs on campus?

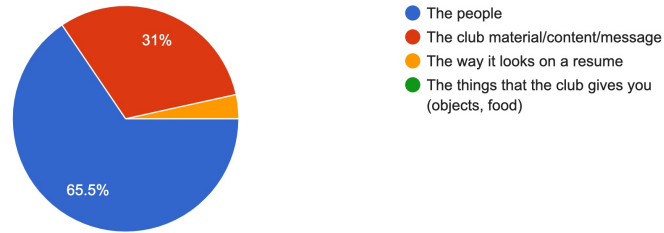
32 responses



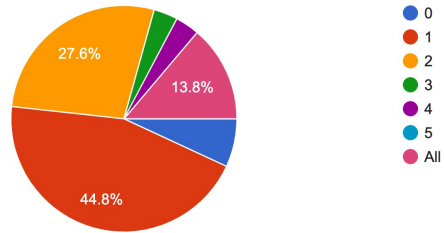
32 responses

IV. RESULTS – CLUB MEMBERS

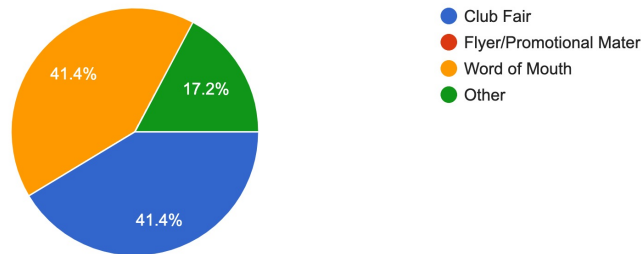
For the club you have been with the longest, what aspect of the club do you like the most?
29 responses



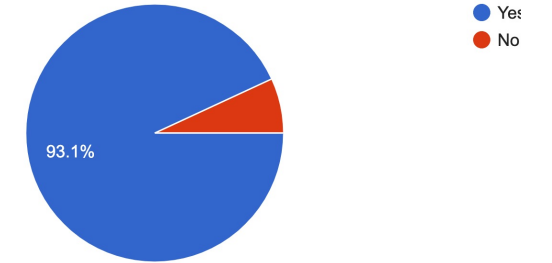
How many of these clubs would you say you have a vested interest in (4+ months of membership)?
29 responses



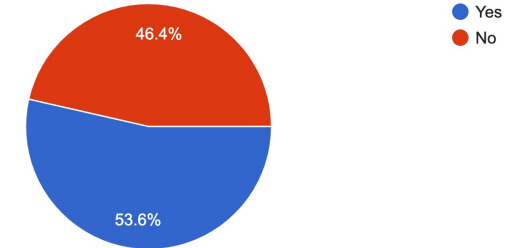
How did you find out about the clubs you are apart of?
29 responses



Have you heard of the club Engineers Without Borders(EWB)?
29 responses



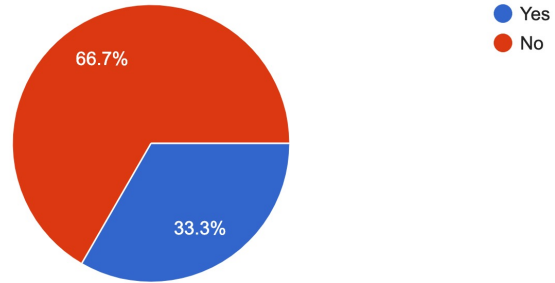
If you answered yes to the previous question, are you a member?
28 responses



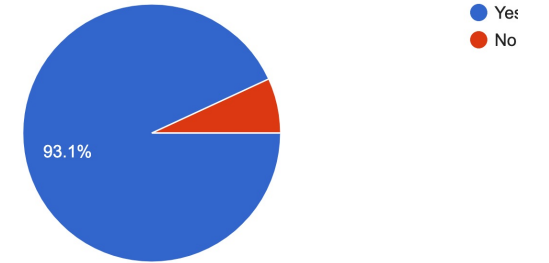
29 responses – club members

V. DISCUSSION

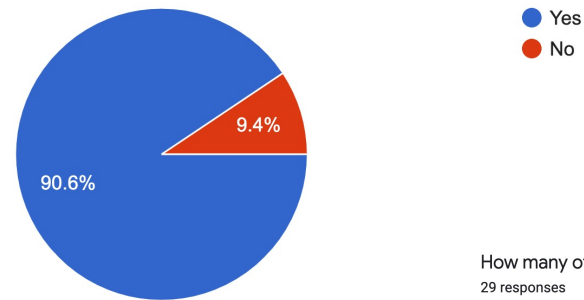
Have you heard of the club Engineers Without Borders?
3 responses



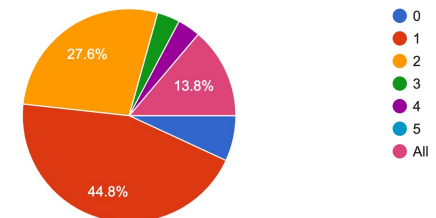
Have you heard of the club Engineers Without Borders(EWB)?
29 responses



Are you a member of any clubs on campus?
32 responses



How many of these clubs would you say you have a vested interest in (4+ months of membership)?
29 responses



V. DISCUSSION

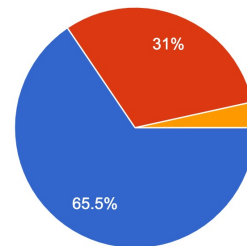
Important Factors

- N=32, relatively low
- Third years and COE/COS overrepresented compared to general student body
 - Older students have more time to develop club interests -> inflates club membership and interest data

Takeaways

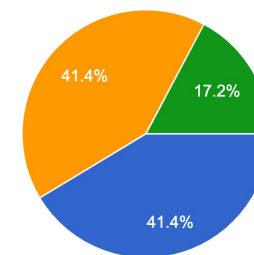
- There are not many non-stem members of EWB
- Most important factors in club retention
 - EWB section heads & project leads
- Long term retention most important factor is community
 - Word of mouth
 - "People" being the most liked aspect

For the club you have been with the longest, what aspect of the club do you like the most?
29 responses



- The people
- The club material/content/message
- The way it looks on a resume
- The things that the club gives you (objects, food)

How did you find out about the clubs you are apart of?
29 responses



- Club Fair
- Flyer/Promotional Mater
- Word of Mouth
- Other

VI. CONCLUSION

What can EWB do to attract new members?

- Increase social aspects within club
- Increase club appeal for new/younger members
- NEU club fair
- Word of mouth
 - Important: Not a single survey participant selected brochure

Data skewing

- Strong majority of respondents were third years (53.1%)
- (50%) COE and (40.6%) COS
- The number of co-op experiences were evenly split, the majority (40.6%) having experienced one co-op

Suggestions

- Implementation of a new member learning plan
- Increase number of purely social events in EWB
- Recruitment of members from different backgrounds
 - Increase diversity
 - Interdisciplinary work made easier; grants, business affairs, Spanish

VI. CONCLUSION

- Any Questions?