

## **Alcohol Policy Implementation Committee Meeting Notes December 13, 2002**

**Attendance:** Lea Stewart, Brian Rose, Joan Carbone, George Jones, Lee Schneider, JoAnn Arnholt, Lisa Laitman, Linda Lederman, Jay Kohl, Laura Kull, Elizabeth O'Connell Ganges, Adrienne Coleman, Rebecca Burlew, Daniel Perkins, Rachel Scharf

This committee will serve as the Alcohol Policy Implementation Committee for the New Brunswick campus. There are separate committees either in existence or being formed for Newark and Camden. The Committee has been given the discretion to determine its own charge.

We will attempt to schedule all future meetings for the SCILS Faculty Lounge. The meeting dates for next term are as follows:

January 24  
February 21  
March 14  
April 18  
May 16

All meetings will be 11:30-1:30 and will include lunch. The cost of lunch will be born by colleges and departments represented on the Committee on a revolving basis. The next lunch will be the responsibility of Rutgers College.

The Committee has requested that a list of committee members from the 1999 report and a list of appendices to that report be circulated. Brian Rose will attend to both. Circulate list of appendices to all for copy requests.

The Committee will utilize the 2000 Senate Report as a guide in terms of setting priorities, but will not use it as a mandate.

The Committee first undertook a general discussion in terms of what the Committee goals and objectives should be. Highlights of the discussion were:

It was noted that the 1999 report had already generated a few outcomes, such as the extension of campus bus service to later hours and the Knight Shuttle service.

Linda Lederman suggested we update the 1999 review of the research from other institutions as to programmatic initiatives.

The discussion of "alternate activities" noted the importance of understanding the timing and interest in attendance of specific events in terms of generating student interest. Events w/ alcohol but where some mechanism is used to discourage underage drinking might yield better attended events. (e.g. Cook Happy Hour). Such events do not respond to underage or of age students who want drinking to be primary behavior.

There was a suggestion to undertake a rewriting of the University Alcohol Policy which many believe needs to be updated.

It was suggested that the Committee undertake to establish an information clearinghouse on student alcohol use and related issues. Such a clearinghouse should include hard research and actual university data in an effort to try and make it credible to students. Police info, EMS info, discipline, etc. might be shared without identifying specific students.

The Committee had a discussion with respect to drinking behaviors by students in off-campus areas with the primary focus of the discussion being upon the residential areas fairly contiguous to campus. A problem with stringent on-campus policies as to drinking is that it pushes people off-campus in unsupervised environments to drink. The Committee discussed the possibility of follow-up with problem drinking behaviors occurring off-campus and noted the possible distinction to be made between intervention versus punishment. "Parties" as an issue (Greek and non-Greek both); town-gown problems. What do other schools do? Problem of our somewhat unique geography (spread out) / and privacy issues at private residences. The Committee concluded this part of the discussion by agreeing to deal with the off-campus issues as a sub-component of each major topic undertaken by the Committee.

The Committee discussed student behaviors and the notion of drinking to build relationships and implications. Pattern = drink less as you get older. Study time / class time as deterrent. The Committee would like to review research on WHY people engage in the behaviors of what they do.

The Committee briefly discussed Parental notification practices using University of Delaware as an example. We also discussed the merits of a "Dry Campus". One of the concerns raised as to both approaches is that they discourage reporting of incidents and even emergency situations by students.

The Committee spent a portion of the meeting breaking up into three broad topical areas as follows:

1. Community Building
2. Policy
3. Communication

Outcomes from those group discussions and "homework" for the next meeting were as follows:

Communication: Each college will report to the committee as to its own policies and initiatives regarding alcohol use by students. The Rutgers College Alcohol Committee (chaired by Michael Stillwagon) has prepared a summary grid. Joan Carbone will distribute the grid to the other colleges and request that they update their own information as needed. Each college should bring copies of relevant policies or program documents (e.g. Cook Happy Hour) for distribution.

Community Building: This group discussed the possibility of establishing a New Brunswick-wide programming group that might pool programming funds and also more effectively seek outside funding for bigger and better events. The Committee also wanted to explore the barriers to use of athletic facilities for such events.

Policy: The policy group discussed the notion of clarifying existing college and facility-level policies regarding alcohol and attempting to promote more consistency. This dovetails with the issues above under Communications.

Miscellaneous:

Brian Rose will undertake to set up a web space for the committee so that relevant documents and drafts of committee proposals can be posted for review by both committee members and the larger university community.

The question of whether policies and programs as to "drugs" should also be undertaken by the committee was raised and deferred to a future meeting.