

Student Academic Life Committee
September 5, 2018

Present: Doug Harms, Leslie James, Naima Shifa, Tom Ball, Marianne Martinez, Jonathan Bonilla, Julianne Miranda

Invited guest Julia Sutherlin provided an update about behaviors and interventions related to alcohol on campus. She reported that efforts have focused on reducing high risk behavior for the last two years. The framework for the work is the DePauw Collaborative, a cross campus representation that steers the initiative. A quick overview of where DePauw stands with respect to national data vs. campus included reviewing eight data points for measuring progress in the work to reduce high risk drinking. The handout included graphs that visually indicate a general decrease in alcohol consumption. While we have seen an increase in binge drinking rates over the past several years, from 2017-2018 we saw a decrease in this rate (from 65% to 56%). We also have seen an increase in peer calls and an overall reduction of the BAC on hospital runs which means that peers are helping with intervention and alcohol related transports.

Question was asked about the binge drinking rates, which are percentages of student responding to the ICUS, not of the total population. We do know % of population who are male, female, Greek, etc., but we do not ask about academic indices like GPA.

This year's biggest emphasis is a concerted effort to uphold policies in the handbook, and support for the policies and guidelines of the national and international fraternities and sororities. Julia reports while progress has been made, that some course correction still remains with respect to upholding these standards.

Question about the hard alcohol ban at events. Julia indicated some adhere better than others, others are escaping notice and it is still present. Marianne indicated it is still present, and students are still "getting away with it". Intervention is the responsibility of the security firm monitoring the events. Several years ago we had an MOU with a provider, but in January 2017, they withdrew because of the liability and risk to their firm. We now work with two security firms for alcohol related events, ensure no providing of alcohol, helping with safety, and notifying public safety in the moment.

Julia was asked about public safety. Students have the understanding that officers can ask any student for a breathalyzer and if they fail, take them to Public Safety. Julia clarified this noting that we value community policing, and efforts are being made to have public safety officers more present. This includes having people get to know the officers through bike patrol rather than a car where the officers are restricted to the street. There are two officers who conduct bike patrols. Public Safety is working on hiring additional security (not law enforcement) so that they can be out and about on campus. All law enforcement officers have to have reasonable cause to stop someone in an official capacity, for example impaired walking or speaking, carrying open container, etc. If over 21, the individual must be clearly impaired before the officer interacts. The BAC threshold for sending to hospital is 0.25

Are students skeptical about us upholding the standard? No, students do see public safety presence and student government is working to make sure the information about safe practice gets down to chapter meetings and students in general so they are aware of the policies and practice.

National Interfraternity Council - governing body for all IAC fraternities just sent a press release about a new standard that eliminates hard alcohol in the living units and all fraternities have until September

2019 to comply. Question - if a chapter violates, what is the penalty? Question referred to Myrna Hernandez, DOS. Marianne added that it depends on each chapter.

How are the students responding? Marianne reports that they are mostly mixed reviews, but not much reaction now because it is already in the handbook. DePauw Student Government is providing food trucks alongside other events as a way to help students sober up and also have something fun to do if partying is not their preferred activity. These are among many examples of how policy is being partnered with outreach and programming.

Is there a goal, formal or informally when looking at us vs. Indiana. Continuing to lower the high risk behavior and cultivating and affirming students who identify with healthy living and planning non-alcohol events.

Julia then left the meeting.

Rich has an email ready to go to send to faculty that among other things, includes information about the medical amnesty policy.

Kate Smanik sent an email to Rich indicating that she had received some feedback that faculty are having problem embracing the changed language about religious holy days. Rich postulates that not every faculty member is aware of the change. Rich and Kate will sign a message to go to faculty. Alan reported that new faculty (new to the college) might not clearly understand the policy and a reminder would be good. Leslie offered his thoughts that policies establish relationships which serve as a foundation for understanding the diversity of practices within religious traditions. In implementation there need to be things considered that the policy can't put into writing. We need some understanding of the complexities of the negotiations.

If a student is asking for flexibility for observance, but is denied, there is a process through Student Academic Life. Rich and Alan will be sending similar messages reminding students and faculty about the policy and being proactive to requests.

Marianne reported on academic fair and banquet which this year, is a mini-week. This year's theme highlights Liberal Arts and is focused to the first year class. Banquet is arranged around students' expressions of interests and will be paired with faculty in that interest area. We confirmed that October 1 is not the major declaration day, rather the major declaration deadline is always the end of the 6th week of the second sophomore semester which falls in March. The question was asked if Department chairs are aware of the event, and it was affirmed they are.

Supplemental question added to common app, Marianne suggested a committee approach to that question because the information could be especially helpful to a white paper that recommend moving the PPD requirement to the First Year Seminar. The white paper would then move to the Curriculum Oversight Committee.

Marianne further reported that the students would be engaging in a discussion about the demonstration policy on 9/11 at 6pm in the student org space.

Rich ended the meeting asking for someone to think about taking over as chair in advance of his sabbatical next semester.