

**12/10/08**

**Taskforce Meeting Minutes**

*Present: Jessica Gifford, Ariel Pressman, Earl Brown, Jane Couperus, Amy Petro-Roy, Claire Turner, Josiah Litant & Bethany Glauz-Todrank*

Claire and Earl reported that conversations are underway to hold a radio interview with Public Safety and the EMTs, and this should take place in February when students are back on campus.

We discussed the results of the Opinion Survey on Faculty, Staff and Administrative Roles Regarding Alcohol. The survey results were separated into faculty, staff and student responses, and similarities and differences between response groups were discussed. Jessica will post these responses on the Community Health Website and put an announcement in the Daily Digest for the community to have access to.

In general, the opinions were split and there were only a few areas of strong agreement, which were:

- It is NOT appropriate to have alcohol available in classes or in private meetings between students and faculty or staff
- It IS appropriate to have alcohol available at social events at a restaurant, bar, etc. with students and faculty/staff

Themes that came up regularly in the narrative comments included:

- The legal drinking age needs to be respected
- Alcohol should not be paid for by the college/through student tuition (this was a big student concern)
- The appropriateness of having alcohol available is situational and should be determined by the individuals involved
- Any drinking that occurs should be responsible and in moderation (additionally, faculty/staff may model appropriate social drinking in certain contexts)
- It is important to be sensitive to sub-free students and those who may be uncomfortable with the availability of alcohol

The Taskforce discussed what recommendations to make to the Dean's Office, and agreed that, given the many gray areas, we were more comfortable with suggesting "guidelines" rather than policy. Amy agreed to develop a rough draft of the wording for these guidelines, which will include:

- The rationale for the purpose of guidelines
- A statement that, beyond complying with the legal drinking age, the decision should ultimately remain up to the discretion of the individuals involved
- Things to take into consideration (level of comfort of all involved, moderation & responsibility, appropriateness of context etc.)
- Examples of what's appropriate (certain social events) and what isn't (e.g. classes & private meetings) including some of the results from this survey (e.g. 60% of respondents thought that it was NEVER appropriate to have alcohol available in the classroom.

Our next meeting will be February 11 from 3:30-5:00