STUDENT RELATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF OCTOBER 31, 2008
MINUTES

PRESENT: C. Koopmann (Chair), Yarin Eliav, Beverly Fauman, Karl-Georg Federhofer, Annette Haines, E. Royster Harper, Janine Maddock, Ian Margolis, Leo McAfee, Susan Pritzel, Simone Himbeault-Taylor; Karin Teske

GUEST: Mary Jo Desprez (UM Alcohol Policy and Community Initiatives Program Administrator)

Chair Koopmann called the meeting to order at 12:19pm.

CHAIR REMARKS

Chair Koopmann announced the agenda for the year was set up at the SACUA luncheon and would like a copy e-mailed to all committee members. The topics for the last two meetings remain open in the event of the committee needing to address an urgent matter which would push back the rest of the schedule. Koopmann then welcome Tom Smith, general manager of Hill Dining Hall.

Hill Dining Hall

Tom Smith, general manager of Hill Dining Hall welcomed everyone to the facility. The facility serves 23,000 meals per week accounting for 30% of on campus meals served to students. Included in the facility is Victors Market which provides an additional option for students on-the-go. The dining hall employs 280 students, with some positions still available. 32 full time workers, 8 managers and 2 chefs are also employed. Food selection at Hill Dining Hall continues to change as student behavior is monitored to better serve their needs. With freedom of choice and all-you-can-eat, sometimes food is taken but not eaten and thrown away.

_The concept of the “freshman 30” was brought up._

Nutrition information is provided for most of the menu items. Students should watch portion size as the nutrition information specifies portion size. Students may also chat with a nutritionist to get additional information and are encouraged to ask questions if they have any about their meals.

_How much does it cost per meal?_

Several student meal plan options are available. For example the block meal plan provides a set number of meals, 150 or so, and the student can use these at any time. Cost per meal may be around seven dollars. Another option is the unlimited meal plan which allows the student to swipe in to the dining hall any number of times. The cost per meal for this plan would vary.

_It doesn’t seem like that many students are served considering the size of the campus._

About 10,000 out of 35,000 students obtain their meals on campus. Hill Dining serves 30% of these students.

_Who would be liable if a food-borne illness were to appear on campus? (reference to the incident at Michigan State earlier this year)_

The university obtains high quality products. Hamburgers are fresh and never frozen, whole chickens are ordered. The responsibility for food sanitation would be shared between Michigan as well
as the purveyors and distributors. Hand sanitizer is provided at the card swipe stand for students to sanitize their hands before eating.

Royster Harper suggested moving on to feature presenter; Harper thanked Tom Smith for his hospitality. Harper introduced Mary Jo Desprez, senior administrative representative for alcohol practice and policy at the University of Michigan.

**UPDATE ON CAMPUS ALCOHOL ISSUES**

The wellness perspective of alcohol is tied to other health behaviors such as other drug use and sexual activity. Alcohol use by students impacts the campus, community, as well as the students individually. It is for all of these reasons that the approach to alcohol interventions be multi-pronged as well as evidence-based in order to provide the most efficient and effective strategies. Strategic interventions involve identifying the knowledge and attitudes of students as well as their environment. These factors differ from campus to campus.

*Is any university implementing this multi-dimensional strategy?*

The University of Michigan can be on the cutting edge of new approaches to alcohol interventions. A social norms approach lets students recognize that not everyone on campus is consuming alcohol and would help these students create their own college experience without feeling the need to “fit in” to the alcohol culture.

National data cannot necessarily be applied to alcohol intervention strategies on campus. Certain approaches do not work in every situation because of the characteristics of the student body and university environment. Example of Michigan State “Cedarfest” as a culture of off-campus drinking; Michigan State won award for social marketing campaign as an attempt to correct this problem. This approach may not work everywhere.

Student life survey shows how students here at Michigan are unique and different. Typically, as the number of drinks consumed increases, GPA decreases; however, here at Michigan this may not be the case. Some students who get good grades may not been identified as having problems with alcohol.

Student life survey also shows an increasing trend in women's alcohol consumption. This may be a reflection of the increase in advertisements for alcoholic beverages targeted at women.

*Would females tend to underreport their alcohol use because it is culturally less acceptable?*

The research defines a “drink” based on a serving of alcohol. Many students using 16oz cups may report one drink when really they are consuming more than one (standard 12 oz if beer). Additionally, the amount of liquor poured into one cocktail or mixed drink is probably more than one shot. “Jungle Juice” was brought up as having a large volume of alcohol in a drink which does not taste like alcohol which may lead to an underestimation of the amount of alcohol being consumed.

*Aren't students taught not to take drinks from people when they don't know what is in it?*

Yes, but when alcohol is dispensed as “Jungle Juice” or other concoction at a themed party, it is seen as fun and acceptable to take such drinks.

The Federal government requires the review of alcohol policies every two years; if a university fails to do so, Federal funds may be revoked. Policies for subpopulations such as athletes may not be in conflict with university policy. Within these policies are guidelines for alcohol use on campus. Six
facilities at the University of Michigan are licensed to dispense alcohol. Regulations are in place regarding who is present at such events (cannot be a predominantly student event, etc.)

CURRENT ISSUE:
Amethyst Initiative: The President of Middlebury College in Vermont proposed the 2009 government re-evaluation of alcohol age limit being returned as a power to the States. 129 university presidents out of 4,000 universities in the U.S. signed on for this initiative. These advocates did not consult professionals in the field regarding research of highway safety, brain maturity of adolescents and young adults, or advertising of alcohol to these age groups. There is a need to talk comprehensively about the issues, not just age limits.

BUSSING ISSUES:

Students consuming excess alcohol board buses, become ill and vomit on the bus. Bus must be taken off its route to have bodily fluids cleaned up. Clean up is costly and takes the bus off its route leaving other students without a ride home. Bus driver is put in a tough situation to attempt to identify the perpetrator.

- Initiatives: campaign to make students feel a sense of community with their bus drivers
  - raise awareness on campus of the issue (flyers on disruptive behavior)
  - increase express routes (not funded) to get students home directly from the library or other locations and to not be disrupted by others boarding at CC Little, etc.
  - Ideas such as cameras on buses were brought up not only for vomiting incidents on buses but also sexual and physical assault
    - How to make students realize their impact on the community for such actions; make the students clean up the vomit themselves.

Conflict resolution for alcohol or other issues: OSCAR at University of Michigan.
Good Samaritan policy in effect at the University, but if city police are involved they cannot ignore the law.

Royster Harper thanked Mary Jo for coming and announced the tour of Hill Dining Hall would begin shortly for those interested in staying.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33pm.

Submitted by,

Karin Teske
SACUA Support