Student Relations Advisory Committee

Minutes of October 31, 2014
11:30 to 1:30pm
Kalamazoo Room University of Michigan League

Meeting Commenced at 11:54am

Members Present: David Potter (chair), Vice President Royster Harper, Associate Vice President Simone Himbeault Taylor, Charlie Koopman, Anne Mondro, Desmond Patton, Donna Hayward, Gina Cervetti, Jean Krisch, Diego Calvo, Alex Gamza, and Kyle Lady

Members Absent: Avery Demond, Lisa Low, and Ed Rothman

Guests: Chief Health Officer Dr. Robert Winfield

Materials Distributed:
Agenda
Past Minutes

Chair Potter thanked everyone for attending the meeting and opened with a brief roll call. Committee minutes of March 2014 were approved

Dr. Winfield began his presentation on alcohol consumption on campus
• Binge drinking on campus was 10% higher at the University of Michigan than the US average
• Breakdown of drinkers on campus, roughly 67% of students drink
• Significant increase in negative outcomes for students who were apart of Greek Life on campus

Vice President Royster Harper pointed out the results from within the data that roughly half of binge drinkers did something that they regretted, which could potentially be classified in aspects from other categories that had relatively small percentages put could be very traumatic to the victim nonetheless
**Common Agenda**
Integrate health and wellness
Build resilience to manage fluctuations of life
Make thoughtful choices
Find meaning and purpose in life

Collaborative Campus solutions include:
- Move in date that is closer to actual class start date
- Agreement on no hard liquor at parties from Greek leadership
- Requiring all new pledges of fraternities/sororities take awareness classes

Condensed move in results
- 20% decrease in alcohol related calls
- 24% decrease in visits to the emergency room
- 33% decrease in ambulance requests

Additional Focus Areas:
- Collaboration with law enforcement and the university committee
- Social marketing campaign
- Health and wellness collective impact

Chair Potter spoke in detail about the social and academic impact that drinking has had on the university as a whole and then went on to voice some of the proposals suggested by the committee:

**Proposed Solutions Regarding Social Aspects:**
1. The focus should be more on wellness and being health conscious than on overall alcohol prevention
2. Charts offering calorie counts for different alcoholic beverages (while remaining conscious of messages that could signal shame or encourage eating disorders
3. The university should engage the Greek System about changing the timing of Rush

**Proposed Solutions Regarding Academic Aspects:**
1. Discourage class cancellations among high risk holidays (e.g. Halloween and St. Patrick’s Day)
2. Encourage instructors to schedule exams around major sporting events
3. Require **ALL** 100 and 200 level classes with numerous sections to have mandatory Friday classes to discourage a “three day” weekend

Several committee members provided vital insight on ways to address the issues caused by drinking on campus:
- Ann Mondro stated that the implementation of Friday classes would have to be campus wide to have the strongest impact and even then it may not be an effective deterrent because of an established university culture
• Desmond Patton questioned the distributive breakdown of the drinking statistics in order to better understand how to generate solutions. For example: ethnicity, socioeconomic status, campus affiliations, (Greek, non-Greek) and academic standing within the university (freshman sophomore etc.)

• Members of the Central Student Government (Alex and Diego Calvo) spoke about the importance of moderation instead of regulation. Detailing how it is important to allow freshman, who have the highest risk of alcohol related offenses, to view the actions of those they consider to be leaders on campus. If the university were able to collaborate more effectively with campus leaders and use to example set by the campus leaders to promote safe and healthier drinking habits to the incoming students it would benefit everyone.

• Associate Vice President Simone Himbeault-Taylor stressed the necessity for students to be able to differentiate between being able to make good choices and being responsible. She cited that it may be a bit of ambiguity with students regarding their individual levels of responsibility so instead we should encourage them to make the right choice at all time. Simone also placed emphasis on the differences between internal and external solutions. She believed that internal solutions (habits/lessons instilled into the student by someone the student values) would be the most effective ways to solve the issues we face on campus, while also stating how students could potentially view the programs initiated by the university as trying to limit or control their lives and as a result be a lot less effective.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm

Submitted by:
Kendrick Bell, SACUA Student Support