

## SCAPE—September 14, 2012

**Present:** Laurel Contomanolis, John DiSarro, Andrea Golden, Jared Hilton, Melissa Kelley, Alicia Lewis, Morgan Levy, Monica Miranda Smalls, Amanda Muskin Trevino, Kristen Pallen, Vanessa Sanchez, Rishi Sharma, Matt Skurnick, Andrew Wall, Dean Feldman

**Dean Levy:** Dean Feldman has come to talk to our committee, let's introduce ourselves to him. Some questions to answer are who are you?, how are you part of the campus community?, how long have you been on SCAPE?, why are you interested in this topic?, and what you feel is the most important issue for SCAPE this year? I'm Morgan Levy, I am the Assistant Dean of Students, I have been on SCAPE since it started, and I'm very interested in the role that alcohol plays on campuses and trying to increase educational opportunities to prevent bad things happening because of alcohol. I'm interested in what you all think is the most important issue for SCAPE to tackle this year.

**Vanessa Sanchez:** I am an SA senator and I am also in a sorority and various other campus groups. This is my first time on SCAPE and the reason why I'm interested in this topic is that a lot of policies deal directly with student risk and I think that should be the primary concern of a campus. The most important issue for SCAPE this year is expanding alcohol education.

**Rishi Sharma:** I am representing the IFC; this is my first time serving on SCAPE. I also serve on SA but I am here to represent IFC. I'm interested in this topic because I was somewhat involved in the medical amnesty policy decision and I am interested to see how it plays out. The most important issue for SCAPE this year is addressing and analyzing the connection students often make between a social life and alcohol.

**Matt Skurnick:** I am the chairman of IFC, and I was present for a few SCAPE meetings last year. Alcohol is a pretty big issue on campuses in general and I'm interested to see what different campuses are doing to affect the use of alcohol on campus. This committee also makes a lot of decisions that affect Greek Life.

**Laurel Contomanolis:** I am representing Residential Life and Housing Services, and I've been on SCAPE from the start. I am interested in this topic because there seems to be an undercurrent in student and residential life—there's always a push and pull between what students want to do and what they can't do. Alcohol tends to be something that students experiment with when they come to college. Issues seem to be expanding—there is an impact on students, neighbors, police, etc. We're looking for good ways to get a handle on how to manage some of this.

**John DiSarro:** I am the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. I have been on SCAPE since part way through last spring semester. I am interested in this topic because I deal with a lot of organizations that plan social events with alcohol so it is helpful to be here and see how the policies work and help organizations plan

their events. I agree with Laurel that off-campus events are a growing issue. I think it's important to establish consistent expectations for on and off-campus events.

**Andrea Golden:** I am the Assistant Director for Athletics, representing Athletics and Recreation. I have been participating in SCAPE for 2+ years (since the start). I think that the topic of alcohol/drug use on campus is something that creates an opportunity for groups of people to come together and to enjoy one another's friendship—where does the substance/drug use bring you over time? Concerns for SCAPE for the year would be policies on and off campus, Dandelion Day, and how certain events are functioning. I think consistency is key.

**Alicia Lewis:** I am the Associate Directory of Wilson Commons Student Activities. I have been on SCAPE for about a year. In Student Activities we plan a lot of student events, most of which are intended to be non-alcoholic. Some students will pre-game events, for example concerts. I also advise Campus Activities Board which is a big programming group for Dandelion Day so that's the biggest concern for me in the spring semester.

**Amanda Muskin Trevino:** I am the Assistant Directory for Student Life at Eastman and this is my first SCAPE meeting. I'm interested to know how we can learn from the River Campus even though we have different campuses. Increased education is very important.

**Melissa Kelley:** I am the Health Educator in the Health Promotion Office and alcohol education is one of my primary job responsibilities. I have been on this committee since 2009. I'm here because it is one of the many things I do related to alcohol. There are many important issues to be addressed so I'm excited to see what we accomplish this year.

**Monica Miranda Smalls:** I am the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. I have been on SCAPE since it started. I am interested in this topic because I work with a lot of students that do social programming and so alcohol presence at these events is of concern to me. I think the most important issue for SCAPE this year will be the off-campus activity and how that will impact, or not impact, on-campus behavior. Do we have responsibility ethically and legally to be aware of and address what students are doing off-campus?

**Andrew Wall:** I am a faculty member at the Warner School of Education and a department chair. I have been a member of SCAPE but not very active in the past, so I intend to be more active this year. I come with a background in alcohol and health behavior change research.

**Jared Hilton:** I am the Assistant Director of Operations for RC MERT. I also am on the football team. I've been on SCAPE since spring of last year. As a MERT member we see a lot of the bad things that can happen because of alcohol so I'm interested in

harm reduction and help people to know their limits. The most important issue for SCAPE is alcohol education.

**Kristen Pallen:** I am a GA for the CSCM but I'm also a GHR for Residential Life.

**Dean Feldman:** First of all I want to thank everyone for participating in this. This is an extremely important issue for the campus. I can frame the question in a number of ways. From my perspective, I have a responsibility for things that happen on campus and see to it that what we provide for students are the best educational opportunities we can and in an environment in which they can pursue safely and successfully. There is no question that some of the behavior that SCAPE looks into in terms of alcohol use impacts education and student success. There is a much more personal level too—I don't want to be the Dean making phone calls to parents or talking to reporters explaining how tragic events happen. The important issue is the impact alcohol and related behavior is having on students, family, and friends. When our Board of Trustees comes to campus for meetings, there is inevitably a question about policies regarding alcohol use on campus and how we compare to other schools. We know we live in a circumstance that there are laws that govern the behavior of undergraduates but we know that behavior doesn't always match up entirely to those laws. What we have to do is think about education, think about safety, and think about how best to reduce harm. Whenever we can, we try to engage with students to think about these issues and manage this problem. The students on this committee are the ones that can help us to really understand the culture and the issues and relate to what is happening with fellow students on campus. I think this is an issue of utmost importance for the campus and your role in it is vital. I can assure you that the recommendations that come out of groups like this are given great consideration. I hope that you will be able to come up with recommendations for how we can do things better. I think we are all in agreement that the issues are education and harm and risk reduction. There's some problematic behavior on campus and I have no reason to believe that the behavior here is particularly worse or particularly better than on other campuses. However as in all things, I'd like to see us do better.

**Rishi Sharma:** Why was SCAPE recharged under the college?

**Dean Feldman:** Primarily because I wanted to make it clear that this was a college priority and to give it greater visibility and enhance its significance. I wanted to do what I could to make a statement.

**Dean Levy:** I have an agenda for us. I thought that today we could get some updates on some of our outstanding issues and then talk about agendas for the year. Medical amnesty is our first update. I have copies of the most up-to-date alcohol policy. We didn't do a great job of getting the message out early about what medical amnesty is and how it is used. The medical amnesty language is on page 17. We wanted it to be short and as simple as possible. Dean Burns sent a message out to the community about it. There is information about medical amnesty within the New Student

Orientation. We expected RAs to share information about it with their floors and we also have poster campaigns that will be put in residence halls advertising medical amnesty. Student leaders thought it would be good to make it clear that this applies to organizations as well as individual students. I can get some posters to be hung around Eastman as well.

**Vanessa Sanchez:** When you talk about making it clearer that it applies to organizations are you talking about changing the posters or changing the policy itself?

**Dean Levy:** I'm not thinking of changing the policy itself. If next year we feel the policy should be changed, we can address it then. We have inclusive language that says that "a student" could also be "an organization."

**Rishi Sharma:** Can we have some of these posters given out to fraternities or houses on the fraternity quad to be put up.

**Kristen Pallen:** We will be providing some to the GHAs in the houses.

**Matt Skurnick:** It might be a good idea to have that by bars that register events with alcohol. If you're taking care of someone at a bar, seeing a poster for it might help give people a safe option to help their friend.

**Monica Miranda Smalls:** We could include that in the event registration process.

**Melissa Kelley:** I think there needs to be a number to call visible versus having to think about what number to call.

**John DiSarro:** I think it's important to clarify who to call—campus Security or RPD.

**Laurel Contomanolis:** Is it University territory if people are on buses from parties?

**Alicia Lewis:** If there is another round of posters made, can we include the number of Security?

**Dean Levy:** Yes, it will be included on the next set of posters. I wonder if we could put a sticker with the number on it in bold font. I spoke with Roshel and Andrew from ACJC about a panel discussion about questions about second chance and other policies concerning alcohol. They're looking to do this panel discussion by the end of the month. Where are the holes in our publicity?

**Matt Skurnick:** I think long emails are not the most effective because students might see an email but if it's long they might not read through the entire message.

**Dean Levy:** How else do we get people to know about the policy?

**Vanessa Sanchez:** Do they RAs know they are supposed to tell their residents about it?

**Melissa Kelley:** In the context of SWARM, they were educated about it so that they could educate their residents.

**Vanessa Sanchez:** I'm talking more about when RAs have hall meetings, bringing it up and talking about what the policy is and asking if residents have any questions about it.

**Laurel Contomanolis:** I can put something out to all the RAs and CAs saying if it hasn't been done already, talk about medical amnesty at the next hall meeting or gathering.

**Monica Miranda Smalls:** What about on the new CC page? That might be a good place to include something about it.

**Rishi Sharma:** I think students will forget about it when they're out and in a situation at least for the next couple of months while it's still being introduced. I think that's where a strong focus has to be—making sure students on weekend nights know about it.

**Matt Skurnick:** Could we do a wallet card that at least some students will keep?

**Dean Levy:** What will students actually carry with them when they go out?

**Melissa Kelley:** We have key chains for the students that are SWARM trained—the key chains have phone numbers and what to do if you think someone is in some kind of alcohol-related danger.

**Andrew Wall:** Are students convinced on the integrity of the policy?

**Matt Skurnick:** I can tell you that from the Greek Life perspective, not completely.

**Laurel Contomanolis:** It's still new—it hasn't been tested yet.

**Andrew Wall:** Advertising is important but it is very important to convince students of the integrity of the policy. Students may be aware of it but unless they're convinced of the institution it won't be useful. Student leaders should convince their peers of the integrity of the policy and then people will actually use the policy.

**Dean Levy:** An article in the Campus Times spoke positively of the policy.

**Rishi Sharma:** I think a message explaining the integrity of the program coming from student leaders through SA would carry a lot of weight considering SA leaders have a balance between having authority and also being relatable students.

**Matt Skurnick:** There's still the idea, especially in the Greek community, that somehow, regardless of this policy, organizations will get in trouble for having to MERT someone. I think until it gets tested, this will be hard to shake.

**Dean Levy:** I think it has been tested and there have been times when organizations did not get in trouble for calling MERT.

**Monica Miranda Smalls:** They will never share or admit that information. It will be talked about when they are documented and followed up on but not admit it when they are not followed up on or sanctioned.

**Matt Skurnick:** There is often not information sharing among fraternities because it can be embarrassing to share that your fraternity is in trouble. And if you don't get in trouble for something, you're not going to brag about something happening and not getting in trouble for it.

**Dean Levy:** So how can we help change the perception of this policy?

**Matt Skurnick:** I think the basics of incidences that happened in which organizations did not get in trouble can be shared to show the integrity of the policy.

**Dean Levy:** We talked a lot this summer about the pros and cons of sharing information among organizations and we decided that there were more cons than pros.

**Monica Miranda Smalls:** It would be helpful if Greek leaders could spread the information in their chapters. How can John and I help to get the council members to support it and spread it to their membership?

**Andrew Wall:** I think an ongoing discussion is what is needed so that people are aware and believe that the institution is acting in their interest. We don't want to get people in trouble we want to avoid harm.

**Dean Levy:** Would it help to have SCAPE go around to different organizations to explain the policy?

**Matt Skurnick:** Unfortunately I think it needs to be something that happens and that people hear about—for example a MERT that happens in the middle of the fraternity quad that nobody gets in trouble for.

**Dean Levy:** But things like that happen all the time.

**Matt Skurnick:** It hasn't happened this year with the new clause in effect.

**Alicia Lewis:** Would it be possible for you (Matt) as a member in the Greek community, to go around and get a report at the end of the semester to see if the policy really did work? This would show that we are interested in making sure it is a useful policy.

**Matt Skurnick:** I plan on doing that at the next IFC meeting.

**Rishi Sharma:** It will be an ongoing discussion that we will relay back to this group and vice versa.

**Dean Levy:** I think it's important that it's brought up in the Presidents' meeting.

**Monica Miranda Smalls:** We talked about it at the Presidents' meeting and I made a note to make sure that they are forwarding on the information to their memberships.

**Amanda Muskin Trevino:** Do we ever publish statistics regarding this topic—for example numbers of transportations by MERT?

**Dean Levy:** We discuss it in this group but never publish it for public viewing.

**Amanda Muskin Trevino:** I think that in the case of fraternities, if they think that is hasn't happened to anyone, it would be helpful to share numbers to show that it has happened and the policy was successfully implemented.

**Dean Levy:** We have already had a number of students use the medical amnesty policy.

**Monica Miranda Smalls:** Could we say as we move forward in communication to the groups that there have been x number of instances of use of medical amnesty since the beginning of the semester?

**Dean Levy:** I could get those numbers to share.

**Vanessa Sanchez:** I would be willing to communicate that to the Senate this week. It's traditional to report to the Senate what SCAPE discussed at our meetings anyways.

**Rishi Sharma:** I'm the communications co-chair of SA. My other co-chair and Melissa Kelley have a meeting on Monday to talk about what we're going to do in terms of videos, flyers, etc. to publicize and advertise the policy.

**Dean Levy:** It sounds like people are willing to continue the conversation around campus about the importance and integrity of the medical amnesty policy. The off-campus issues related to alcohol are being addressed in several other meetings across campus so I don't want us to try to tackle something that's in conflict with

what other groups are already looking at. I can talk to Anne-Marie about putting posters for medical amnesty on buses to bars.

**Vanessa Sanchez:** I looked for the medical amnesty policy online and it was kind of difficult to locate it so I think that maybe having it on the Hive or easy access points for students would be helpful.

**Dean Levy:** I think that's a great idea. I think the next portion of our conversation about this will be about how we assess the impact of this medical amnesty policy. I want to pass around the last DFA report for everyone to look at. We also talked about SWARM training for this group—we could possibly do that at our next meeting. I will send the minutes out as soon as possible—please review them and send confirmation of your approval within 24 hours. If I don't hear from you I will assume you approve of the minutes. I appreciate everyone devoting time to SCAPE.