

SCAPE
March 17, 2010

Present: Morgan Levy, Luccas Piazza, Nick Reese, Bob Bennett, Ryan Mills, Emily, Jason Alben, Melissa Kelley, Linda Dudman, Vincent Derienzo, Laurel Contomanolis

Agenda: Go through outstanding projects and give updates and go through part 3 of the semester long agenda

Project 1: Communication About The Alcohol Policy

Melissa: 1st one went out in weekly buzz, 2nd entry sent to sub-committee to review and that will be in Sunday's issue

Morgan: Looked at trying to put it in the weekend highlights but it doesn't fit into weekend highlights of SAO. It's supposed to be about events that are happening on the weekend.

Project 2: Surveying Faculty, Parent and Staff

Morgan: Parental involvement survey was sent out over break. (Preliminary summary is distributed to the group to look at). The sub-committee will look at the information that was shared and look how to break it up (the survey produced a lot of qualitative information and now the group will try to quantify it). Because of the way the questions were worded and numbered, it appears that several hundred skipped a question when they actually were following how the questions were asked. Most parents are talking to students about alcohol before coming to the university (most answered were freshman parents). Many parents are continuing to have conversations about alcohol on a regular basis. Most parents said they weren't sure who to contact about issues related to their child's use of alcohol (approximately 68% said they didn't know). Approximately 89% were concerned about their student's use of alcohol and other drugs. The subcommittee will get back together and really dive into the comments. We received a tremendous amount of comments by the parents, some of which are lengthy paragraphs. We will finish collecting this information before going into faculty and staff survey.

Project 3: Collecting Data

Matt: Did not have a chance to meet between last meeting and this meeting. No updates yet

Morgan: We are going to keep working in our subgroups. The faculty, staff and parents survey and the collecting data are the groups that need to keep working since the communicating the alcohol policy group seems to be going well.

Jason: For question 16, [on the parent alcohol survey] what is meant by "U of R leadership"?

Morgan: We didn't specify U of R leadership; we left it vague on purpose. A lot of the comments changed some parent's perception once they received the survey.

Matt: Everyone is considered U of R leadership from a parent's point of view. They don't see a difference between the Office of the Dean of Students and the President's Office sometimes.

Morgan: High response rate of return thus far; more information will be brought back once it's looked into

Semester Long Agenda

Morgan: Last large agenda item is reviewing impact on alcohol policies to determine their effectiveness in reaching our goals which is reducing harms associated with alcohol use. We started to look at this earlier this semester but then decided we needed to collect some data to have a good conversation. This is where that [data collection] sub-committee came from. We needed to look at the statistics to see if our policies were working. At this point it's unclear how far down the path we can go looking at the policy changes. For the new members of the group, the 2 main changes were the 3 party rule or pay rule and parental notification system (which we haven't used that much). We also have an off-campus event registration process as well, but we've only had 2 events thus far.

Jason: Have you noticed any changes in your office in terms of people coming in for delinquent acts involving alcohol?

Morgan: We need to pull our disciplinary numbers for the fall 2009 semester. We can pull them for the fall since we have all our [fall] cases completed. It should be pretty easy to run a search for the alcohol numbers. It's hard to compare numbers because we're also going to want to know severity of the cases. Someone may have been caught with an open container or someone may have been transported to the hospital due to intoxication and that is not an easy thing to break down. Bhargav said that he was going to be able to pull MERT information.

Vincent: MERT is in the process of pulling their data on transports. It should be done within the next month but will check with executive board and get it as soon as we can.

Morgan: We can look at last semester data.

Matt: An example would be 150 cases that were alcohol related for the fall 2009 but 100 were 2nd chance where as fall 2008 we might have had 150 violations but 50 were 2nd chance that would be some indication that the severity of the fall 2008 was more severe than the fall 2009. That might give us some indication.

Jason: If the alcohol infraction is severe enough, can 2nd chance be denied?

Matt: Yes, if it's associated with other misconduct.

Morgan: Generally many 1st time violators of the policy will get the 2nd chance unless they were involved in other bad acts at the time (someone not complying with security while drunk would not get a 2nd chance). The level of intoxication does not make a difference in issuing a 2nd chance.

Jason: Using 2nd chance as a measure of consistency of alcohol related violations may not be accurate. Class years could also influence the number of violations (a class is more prone to getting in trouble).

Morgan: Certain classes do have more violations during their time here. We did work on using 2nd chance more this semester than in semesters past.

Matt: We can see trends w/ the data if you look at over a number of years.

Bob: It's something worth looking at. It won't give you the whole picture but a component of it.

Morgan: 2nd chance is something we can look at. We can look at MERT data & disciplinary data.

Jason: Could we start looking at data by class year, (i.e. sophomores more prone to getting in trouble) and gear more programs toward them?

Morgan: It seems to be that [the number of] incidents travel with the class years. We can definitely look at class years though. A majority of the incidents in the fall semester are the freshman. Some of the other questions we've had are the pre-gaming issue because this is leading to the dangerous drinking activities on campus. How can you fix that?

Ryan/ Laurel: Not sure you can fix that.

Jason: The University doesn't have the resources to monitor that many people.

Laurel: From a residence life perspective this has been an issue because on one hand we want the RA's to be caring and supportive and other hand they are supposed to address conduct issues. It curtails the work that we do. Having it (pre-gaming) fall to the RA's to be enforcing can be an issue and we need to be careful about that.

Matt: We skipped right to monitoring and policing solution. The question was posed "how do we fix it" and the 1st response is there aren't enough resources to monitor it. I don't think it's the appropriate response (Jason didn't say anything inappropriate). We don't want the resources necessary to go into every room to look for stuff that shouldn't be there. That is not the type of culture we want but also that may be where the solution lies. If we're not reacting to people w/ alcohol in room, then what steps are we taking to bring us closer to a culture that doesn't value pre-gaming so much?

Ryan: We should give them other options because pre-gaming is going to happen but make sure it doesn't spread. Offering alternative programs and limiting incentives for them to stay inside.

Jason: Problem is students who want to drink are going to drink regardless of the alternatives that they have.

Luccas: Increase the number of drinks for party registration so students are drinking more in houses and the fraternity will be monitoring the students.

Nick: Responsibility is now resting on fraternities shoulders.

Matt: How did we make the jump from an individual responsible choice to putting that choice on someone else's shoulders?

Jason: The choice is still left to the individual on how much they drink.

Matt: It's not. You want them to go drink where the responsibility is now resting on the fraternity's shoulders.

Jason: People who want to drink are going to drink regardless. The problem is in the fraternity's ability to monitor it then there is an army of people.

Matt: That's what we're saying. Maybe that's the wrong way to look at it. There is a flaw in your (Jason's) logic. If people are going to drink to the extent they want to drink anyway and we open the fraternity houses and let them go to the fraternity houses to drink and the individual can go to a house freely but still can't drink as much as I want how is that going to make me stop pre-gaming?

Morgan: We are making assumptions of why people are pre-gaming and that's a good question to ask. Are they pre-gaming because they can't get alcohol at the fraternity houses or are they pre-gaming because they want to get really drunk before they get to the house?

Ryan: It's not just a U of R problem, it's a national thing. Kids will do this before they go out. They sit around, it's a very casual thing, and they'll drink before they go out.

Morgan: It's like mini socializing before they go to the big party.

Ryan: It's fun, that's why they do it.

Morgan: I think if we're going to try and develop a strategy to help reduce that then we'll need to understand that dynamic.

Melissa: It's not just pre-gaming that's the issue, it's that once they pre-game they don't get totally drunk it's when they do get to where they are going and they play a drinking game where they match what they just drank in 35 minutes. Drinking games are an important piece in this. Most of the students who I see have participated in drinking game beforehand.

Lucas: Do you find that most students who get in trouble for alcohol are they on nights with parties or when there are closed events?

Morgan: It's hard [to determine] because what do you consider to be a party? It may be closed but you still have 75 people there. Most of the incidents we have are with party registrations that we have; most have done drinking games. Students are usually talking about playing drinking games and that's what usually tips them over the edge. They did drink in their rooms and then went to play beer pong and lost and had to drink a lot. Pre-gaming may not be the issue, it may be the drinking games.

Melissa: Pre-gaming is not the problem, other things make pre-gaming seem like it's the problem

Jason: I was under the impression that on the fraternity quad, that the amount of people don't matter and that as long as alcohol is being served it has to be registered.

Morgan: That's not our policy. Our policy is that we strongly encourage you to register any event where alcohol is being served on the fraternity quad but if you look at the event registration criteria, it's those 3 things (serving alcohol, 75 people or more, advertising).

Jason: If it's being advertised, then the people in that house are going to be at capacity for the duration of the party. If a house is at capacity then there aren't drinking games being played. People still have to go to the hospital after they drink. If you can't get more than a 1 beer every 20 minutes, I don't know anyone that could drink that slowly and have to go to the hospital.

Morgan: There are some students who drink way too much in their rooms and go to the fraternity quad and have a drink at a fraternity house and in that situation it is the pre-gaming that's the problem. During my meetings with students, they drink then they play a game.

Matt: Used to hear a lot of students drinking punch or liquor and it was in a room. Most of the time it wasn't someone drinking beer.

Melissa: Most were drinking liquor and that was their demise.

Morgan: Beer usually tops it off for them.

Jason: If someone comes to your (Dean Levy's) office for some alcohol related offense and they tell you the story here they went to a fraternity house and the brothers were forcing them to do shots. It's a lot easier for the students to blame fraternity then take responsibility.

Melissa: I've never had students say it's the fraternity fault.

Morgan: I've never heard of a student saying they were forced to drink at a fraternity. A lot of times the students are reluctant to share that information about where they drank. They are not volunteering that information. They tend to tell the information in the security report because they are in the situation where they are about to be sent to the hospital and there are security

officers there. We are careful when we ask them where they were drinking and ask them really specific questions about where they were drinking, what time it was. We try to get a lot of details before dealing with it as an organization.

Matt: There is very little reason for a student to lie because it doesn't do anything to help their situation and it does something bad for them if they do lie. I'm not convinced that that sort of thing happens very often. We usually know if there was an event on campus.

Ryan: I think what Jason was talking about wasn't just about freshman and their part. They wouldn't be trying to avoid blame for themselves they would be trying to avoid blame for their friends for the room where they drank the alcohol.

Morgan: It doesn't happen often where a fraternity is held accountable for a student drinking in their house. It's only those circumstances where a student went to the hospital and there was significant evidence that they were served alcohol at a house. Most of the times that does happen, we'll try working with the fraternities to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

Lucas: [As an RA we are] Encouraged to do rounds at 8 and 11 and 1. If they are pre-gaming for a party they are doing it at 10pm. If parties are starting at 10 then people are pre-gaming at 9. This also goes into the idea of the RA's being the watchdog. If pre-gaming is the problem then that's something to look at as well.

Laurel: If you are doing rounds more concerned you can ID someone who is ill. It's more of the care idea.

Bob: Both the RA's and student aids are doing rounds and they are acting on the obvious no matter what it is. It's something that you as a citizen of this community wouldn't ignore either.

Matt: Still troubled by re-activeness of all of this. Concerned by the message by saying it's going to happen. Also concerned about how we keep coming back to the disciplinary system holding people accountable and the fraternity quad monitoring people. Isn't there anything we can do to influence a student's personal choice because that's the level that these decisions are being made. It is not because fraternities have limited access to alcohol. Is there really nothing we can do at the personal accountability level because having the RA's and fraternities monitor is not something we want to do or are we going to publically give the message there is nothing we can do, you're going to drink?

Morgan: We know change will be if students get educated and learn and reflect upon it. It comes back to alcohol education.

Melissa: Stepping foot on campus as a freshman is totally different than high school. When they arrive for orientation is the prime opportunity to educate them. They may have drank in high school but it's totally different in college. It's a prime opportunity in between semesters because now they have some time here and we can educate them about over consumption. We're not saying they can't drink but they should think about what you're drinking, how much you're drinking and why you're drinking.

Laurel: A lot of times it's a bad experience you learn from.

Luccas: Learn from your mistakes is the idea. I can't remember anything from my freshman year discussing alcohol.

Melissa: Not much about education for freshman from UHS's department.

Linda: "We've Got Game" is our event and it uses social norms but we only have 1 hour to do it

Melissa: It's not powerful enough. There are some schools that have mandatory events for freshman.

Matt: If we use these resources is it effective? Knowing now, what you didn't know then, what message would you have been able to receive that would have reduced the potential to make those decisions?

Luccas: Most don't know how much trouble they will get in. It's hard to predict because each case is different. They may not do something if they know the consequences

Jason: What can we do to change the incoming class's perception?

Morgan: What about having older class members talk to younger class members?

Emily: Sharing personal stories to the students so they can see what it's really like and get a better picture.

Bob: That might serve 1 minute of a 1 hour presentation but that should not be the focus of the presentation.

Jason: That might get the kids amped up.

Melissa: New students are amped up because they have a fantasy about college life and they need someone to set them straight and dispel their fantasy.

Matt: In small and subtle ways students are looking for ways to see what they do is okay and that's the wrong message because that story could become what it wasn't intended to become. We have to decide what the message is and sometimes the message is "we don't do that here". The message has to be, once that student comes back and asks if that was cool, is no. One of the messages I do not want to send is what you do behind closed doors is not my concern. They are looking for permission to make their drinking look normal and that's the population that concerns me.

Melissa: Having a game show that addresses it kind of send the message that it's okay already and we are sending the wrong message.

Matt: For most of our students it's not a big deal because they are drinking responsibly. To that small portion of the population that is looking to make their drinking look normal is what concerns me.

Morgan: Got a little off track because we started talking about pre-gaming then how it wasn't a harm and then drinking games. We have some good ideas like having student involved or reworking orientation.

Linda: Not all students are alike and some may not want to get in trouble if they saw the consequences.

Laurel: Many students drink responsibly. What are the messages they are hearing that makes them drink responsibly?

Jason: Bad experience in high school.

Laurel: It could be the wrath of your parents in that they are paying \$50k to come here and you better put your nose to the grindstone.

Bob: Is that framework something that happened before they got here or during time here. I would guess there was a foundation before they came here.

Emily: If developed bad habits in high school you'll bring them here. If you had good habits you'll bring those here as well.

Morgan: Is there a way to capture that information? Get those good students who drink into a focus group and ask them what leads you to that? Is there a way with the NCHA survey to see class years? The older students will be the more responsible drinkers because they have more experience.

Lucas: Do you find that the freshman coming in drink in high school? The residents I see and how get in trouble are those that never touched it in high school. The ones with more experience know how to handle themselves.

Morgan: I don't ask.

Ryan: The mean of the population doesn't cause the problems, it's the new students and those that go over the edge that cause problems.

Melissa: For my students, most have had it in high school at some point. Everyone who I see acknowledged having it in high school but since coming here it's changed.

Matt: Sees them after assessments and Melissa's view is spot on. It has to do w/ freedom not past experiences. The transports, there is a difference. Those are the students that have no experience with alcohol.

Jason: A lot of my friends had a bad experience in high school so when they finally go to college it wasn't unexpected. They knew to leave because when they weren't feeling good.

Morgan: 45% of parents believe their students are coming to college having some experience drinking.

Bob: Perception is different from high school as opposed to college. They drink more in college.

Matt: Do you and your friends know how much they'll have before the night starts?

Students: No.

Jason: There is some degree.

Nick: It's a feeling, never a specific number.

Matt: What if they had quantity/frequency advice from their peers?

Emily: Most students aren't aware how many.

Linda: In the weekly buzz we are kind of addressing that. In the fall maybe we could include a protective behavior for students.

Matt: What about using the green bean campaign? That is where you ask would you eat this many green beans and relate it back to alcohol, would you drink this much alcohol. This would give the quantity of alcohol people are drinking.

Morgan: [Wrapping up b/c out of time] Anyone not already on a sub-committee that wants to be on one should talk to that group and join in.