

SCAPE  
April 28, 2010

Present: Matt Burns, Vincent Derienzo, Jessica DeSanctis, Jason Alben, Ryan Mills, Monica Smalls, Linda Dudman, Melissa Kelley, Melissia Schmidt, Morgan Levy (came in after the start of the meeting)

**Agenda: Updates and discuss summer meetings**

**Matt:** Asked the student association (Scott Strenger) for names for next year; students who are around may be part of the committee. The data from the year will start coming in now and during the early part of the summer. We'll be taking a look at that and compiling that information. Morgan was thinking that in summer we could meet 1x month as a full committee and the sub committees will continue meeting and working on their projects. Some students will be here over the summer and could attend so that we have student representation. Next year we will have 3 students returning. Scott will nominate a student and the SA will confirm them.

FPC: Jason will look for summer alternative

MGC: Monica will look for representative for fall and summer

**Linda:** Tasha (Vasquez) expressed interest in this committee when Linda mentioned it.

**Matt:** It sounds like we're going to have more students on the committee over the summer. Information is starting to come in from fall 2009 in terms of disciplinary statistics. Dean Levy created some graphs and table for the committee to look at (these are distributed to the group for review).

The number of judicial referrals are the number of cases that went through the disciplinary system for each semester going back to when we started keeping track (fall 2002). There are dips but you can see a trend. These are numbers and as soon as we go down that path we'll find out that they don't tell the whole story. For instance there may be more judicial referrals but that doesn't mean that there are more cases out there. In some years looking at some more qualitative data we found that students are more comfortable reporting incidents and some staff and students are more comfortable with the disciplinary system taking care of these incidents. We look at these numbers virtually every year.

The drug related referrals- when you take all numbers from the judicial referrals and try to extrapolate the drug related cases, (these are not necessarily just related to the drug policy, but also could be damage and vandalism), where we know a student was taking drugs when they committed the other offenses. When you look at the drug related incidents that went through the disciplinary system and you compare that to the total number of judicial referrals, you have the percent (shown on the table) (fall 2002 35%-40%, fall 2009 just under 15%).

**Melissa:** Is this separated from alcohol?

**Matt:** Yes, although it is not separated out completely, there is some overlap. There will be some drug and alcohol related offenses. Our alcohol numbers are generated the same way. These numbers have been all over the place, the percentage over the last few years they haven't been too bad but the number of judicial referrals are up. When you look at the actual number of cases those might have been stable but the percentages might have been up.

The last is the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance alternative. We started doing the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance alternative in the spring of 2004 so no information is available before that. Second chance is for minor 1<sup>st</sup> time drug (marijuana) or alcohol violations the student is offered the alternative to do what would otherwise be the sanction associated with that but not have it count as a mark against their disciplinary record. So it's not reportable to outside colleges, medical schools, or other graduate schools.

**Jessica:** So they would do community service and it wouldn't be on their record?

**Matt:** They would do educational sanctions like an online course or BASICS with Melissa (Kelley) sometimes a meeting with the University Counseling Center (UCC). You wouldn't be given disciplinary probation.

**Jason:** For the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance alternatives can the changes in bar night be part of the high numbers and that some of the students already used their 2<sup>nd</sup> chance?

**Matt:** Possibly, this is where corresponding information is needed because it could be that you've already had your 2<sup>nd</sup> chance and it was adjudicated officially or it could be that those incidents correspond with other behavior so if you're involved in your 1<sup>st</sup> time offense and you're also involved in a fight, you've be disqualified from 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.

**Morgan:** There are a lot of other disciplinary issues now. This is the total number of cases and also includes copyright violations, which is a large number and it may be making the numbers look different.

**Matt:** If the numbers were the same, this would mimic the alcohol percentages.

**Linda:** Is 2<sup>nd</sup> chance only for alcohol?

**Matt:** No, it's for alcohol and marijuana and every once in a while it's used for some outliers according to the judgment of Dean Levy.

**Jessica:** Curiosity of publicity or letting people know about the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance alternative.

**Matt:** When we first announced it there was a lot of publicity.

*History of 2<sup>nd</sup> chance is discussed*

- Some students came to the Office of the Dean of Students and were concerned that if you call for help they would get in trouble. So we implemented this 2<sup>nd</sup> chance program. If students need help for their friends they will call and we haven't seen information that

differs. Since it was implemented, the information we received is that the rate of recidivism isn't worse and the initial numbers were that it was better in terms recidivism rates and 2<sup>nd</sup> chance numbers so we decided that since we didn't have information saying that having the program was helping in getting more people to call or that there was a problem in the first place, it wasn't doing any harm and it wasn't harming any of our students we decided to keep it

**Jessica:** I'm curious as to the number of people that are aware of that policy.

**Matt:** I don't know. I think it came up earlier this semester.

**Morgan:** I can look back at the notes from earlier this year and see where it came up. I think we agreed that yes, students should be made more aware of it.

**Matt:** Over the summer it would be a good idea to inform students of the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance program and how, what is the message we want to send out.

**Linda:** We used to have 2<sup>nd</sup> chance on one of the social host slides but we've taken it out since it didn't seem like the time to have it there

**Morgan:** Addressing the policy wasn't what we wanted emphasize at that time.

**Matt:** We have to see what the message is that we want to give out. It's not feel free to make a mistake once because you have 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.

**Melissa:** There are a lot of asterisks with it because some offenses wouldn't qualify depending on the situation so it's hard to say when someone would get the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.

**Matt:** The educational part of it is not always the same either. A lot are College Alc bound and some students will say something that alarms us and they are BASICS bound.

**Jessica:** I think the details of it aren't as important. Making them mad after the fact by putting all those asterisk is one thing but we could be like don't hesitate to call because you'll have a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance and you might save someone's life.

**Linda:** It might be getting at that message of don't be afraid to call.

**Jason:** Confusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance policy- The way I view it might be wrong but if you get written up on the fraternity quad and you go for a meeting and are presented with an option. I thought that's what the sanction was.

**Morgan:** If it was their first policy violation and they were cooperative with security and didn't have other policy infractions or other aggravating circumstances then I let them know what all their options are such as going to a hearing and having a board determine responsibility. If they accept responsibility for violating the policy it's an opportunity to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance option

and as long as you complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance option you won't have any formal disciplinary history.

**Jason:** How does calling for help for a friend lead to 2<sup>nd</sup> chance?

**Matt:** That's where 2<sup>nd</sup> chance came from. There was concern expressed by some students that perhaps because if I need help because I drank too much that my friends or I won't call for help because I may get in trouble. The 2<sup>nd</sup> chance option was implemented as a response to that concern and that concern turns out to not have much validity but because the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance option works we kept it. We aren't out to punish students more than we have to and it doesn't affect the rate of recidivism.

**Jason:** Who is in charge of finding a general student [for the committee]?

**Matt:** Usually we ask the whole committee if they know anyone interested and with some mixed success.

**Linda:** The general student is connected to something but not really representing that group.

**Morgan:** One thing I wanted to mention about the parent survey is that I assigned it to my graduate student to do so that one person is collecting the data and we don't have a bunch of different perspectives. We won't have good results until mid way through the summer. We are holding off on the faculty and staff survey until parent survey results are in to see if it is useful.

**Matt:** Collecting event data will keep working throughout the summer.

**Morgan:** Over the summer the smaller groups can still meet.

**Ryan:** Are we going to go over part 4 section A subsection 3-5 (off campus event registration and 3 party or pay rule)?

**Morgan:** We started to do that last time but we realized that we need information from that collecting data. We just go around in circles and it always comes back to the point that we need data before we make any decision about any of these areas.

**Jason:** What data could we collect that would show how successful parental notification is?

**Morgan:** Disciplinary data. We could look at recidivism rates and of those students that had parents contacted.

**Monica:** That data won't be helpful for another year or 2

**Matt:** The only thing we can do is use past data where we would have contacted parents and look at what happened with them as opposed to what happened this year with parents. I don't know if that would be possible to do this.

**Jason:** So you would be like I would have called this person's parents?

**Matt:** Yes, but it doesn't seem very scientific

**Morgan:** It would be very time consuming as well. We would have to read through the incidents reports.

**Ryan:** What about off-campus event registration and the 3 party or pay rule?

**Morgan:** For the off-campus registration information we should ask those that use the off-campus registration to see how useful it is and see if it was helpful or not

**Monica:** I think that they keep coming back to register might also be useful.

**Morgan:** In my conversations with students I've found that they appreciate the conversation of "have you thought about this?" or "have you talked with your neighbors or security?"

**Matt:** The 3 parties or pay rule, has that come up at all this semester?

*No, nobody had to pay this semester*

**Jason:** I think we established pretty early on this semester that there were never really more than 3 parties going on at a time on the fraternity quad.

**Linda:** This is what we were saying before, that it was very rare to have more than 3 parties going at a time

**Ryan:** Can we get the number of registered parties?

**Morgan:** I can get those but I don't have them now.

**Linda:** Was that one of the issues that caused most of the concern, the 3 party or pay and the off-campus registration?

**Ryan:** Yeah, there were some strong worries from a select group of students that were off-campus.

**Matt:** What were the worries?

**Ryan:** Most students thought there were more than 3 parties going on and this isn't the fact. The fact is that most students don't realize that fact and most students feel like the social atmosphere is being constrained because we are on this 3 party limit and some feel that there shouldn't be a limit. If students want to have a party they should be able to throw it.

**Linda:** They can but they have to pay the extra security.

**Jason:** The things I've found with members of the fraternity quad is that there was a system in years past where houses were open and the houses weren't concerned with the occupancy limits or getting to the specifics of the policy because in the past it wasn't enforced as strictly as it is now so the uproar came at the beginning of the school year from new enforcement of policies and then the restrictions of 3 parties and nobody ever realized it.

**Jessica:** What about mixers? I feel that is what the sororities would be most concerned about.

**Morgan:** They are strongly encouraged to register them but if they don't have 75 people it's not required.

**Matt:** I remember that being a concern one year. Jason's concern was brought up before and the houses weren't even sure if they were getting to 75 and if they had to register it. So that was a big concern at the beginning of the year in October and then quieted down and is that because we weren't reaching the 3 parties number?

**Monica:** I've seen that the chapters are at 50 so we'd get to the 75 quickly when they put 2 groups together. We've found that when they register it and it doesn't count for the mixers then they are fine with that. It became a non-issue when they could register and not include the mixer in the 3 party or pay rule.

**Jason:** Now, it's died down now. The concept of being open or having overflow parties have stopped.

**Ryan:** To clarify, before this policy was updated, there was a limit to the number of people that could be in a house before it had to be registered

**Morgan/ Matt:** There has always been a limit.

**Ryan:** What's the change?

**Matt:** There was no change in amount needed to register. There was a concern that all of a sudden we're going to get in trouble for stuff that's happened in the past. I asked how many people were at these overflow parties and was told we don't know. My response to them was that you probably should know so you don't get in trouble.

**Monica:** I think the concern was more the perceived change because of the increase in enforcement.

**Morgan:** We'd have to look at our disciplinary numbers but I don't think that there have been too many violations of the alcohol policies for fraternity parties. It's less than in previous years. I don't think our numbers will reflect that our enforcement has increased.

**Monica:** There was a perception of the change because of the perception of an increase in enforcement.

**Matt:** Because the enforcement didn't change the uproar died down, is that what happened?

**Jason:** It was a mixture of our coming to terms with something and personally I've seen a drop in population on the fraternity quad on the weekends. When I was in my first semester I got accustomed to calling up a friend and saying "what are you doing tonight, let's go check out the fraternity quad," and seeing masses of people and now I'll walk outside the door on a Saturday night and it will be bare. I'm not really a big fan of that.

**Jessica:** That's one of the good things about the fraternity houses. It's public and it enforced and the as opposed to the dorm room

**Morgan:** I don't want to discredit your experience but I'm concerned about trying to connect that to the policy changes that were made. I don't feel that there is any real connection, there might be a perception or misperception about what was happening and that may have changed behavior but the data we have doesn't support that. It's not showing that these policies are having an impact on students going to the fraternity quad.

**Monica:** Maybe we need to get the data. Maybe the fraternity community can do better with counters in the next year so we can try and figure out what the numbers for the next year. Chi Phi did that off campus for their events and were able to figure out what their heavy hours were and could provide better risk management around that time frame. What might be a good thing, Jason, is for FPC being more proactive in trying to figure out what is going on. There are 2 issues, is social life diminishing on the quad, you can't find it out by walking around the fraternity quad, although that experiential data is useful. The other piece is how many people are coming to the quad. What might be some implications of that, like certain times and weekends. Are there things FPC can do to help the management with that or support of that? There are some opportunity for FPC to do some proactive data collection that might inform something.

**Matt:** One of the things we're also looking to see if those people are attending other events on campus more. If people are spending more time at these events and less on the fraternity quad then that's information we want to know.

**Monica:** We won't know that unless the fraternity quad is collecting data.

**Matt:** We have to take Jessica's question back up. If students aren't on the fraternity quad as much as they used to be or they are on the quad as much as they used to be, is that something we should take up, because we've taken it up many times before. We're not on the same page with that and we'll never be done with that discussion and I think that's okay.

**Melissia:** The construction of Riverview and pockets of older students moving there, did that have an effect on the numbers. In talking with students, they prefer to have smaller gatherings rather than larger parties and maybe that is the trend.

**Ryan:** Just because Riverview is there you have more parties.

**Melissia:** More students are choosing to live in Southside now and you have to consider that.

**Morgan:** There is also 1 less fraternity on the quad than in previous years.

**Jason:** When I was a freshman, Theta Chi was already gone.

**Matt:** It would be interesting to track the numbers if the houses can do that. In the aggregate it should be the same.

**Morgan:** We've recommended the houses get clickers to monitor who is coming and going. A couple of houses have started using them.

**Ryan:** The concern was students were surprised over the changes and student perceptions were false. Over time people are going to forget about it.

**Matt:** Changing policy because people forget and calm down about it isn't always the best way to do things. The question is, the changes we made we didn't think would have a huge impact on behavior and the students begged to differ.

**Ryan:** I brought up the idea that because student perceptions were false, that this new policy was more restrictive than they like, that it might have sparked more dangerous behavior like drinking in the dorms. That is something I'd really like to see.

**Morgan:** We can break it down by location but it will be difficult for fall semester because of the older system. That's hard too because just because they were caught in the residence hall doesn't mean that's where they were drinking, that's just where security found them at that point.

**Ryan:** That could be offset as well by people who drink in their residence halls and then go to the fraternity quad.

**Jessica:** Do you think that the best way to approach that would be would that for each of us as students, especially for the areas we are representing and have a conversation asking if the groups have increased their trips to the fraternity quad, do you do this more or that more and then get more of an honest vote. It's biased if you're only looking at those that really over did it by looking at the disciplinary data. We should get the regular numbers. I know the chapters would be very honest.

**Jason:** I'm interested in the why.

**Jessica:** There could be a comments box and we could take those comments.

**Jason:** In the why, we'd get the student perception of the policy and its enforcement.

**Ryan:** We tried doing a survey and students weren't receptive to it and we got some bad comments.

**Jessica:** How did you administer it?

**Ryan:** We walked up to people and asked them.

**Linda:** Could it have been in the approach?

**Jessica:** Did you spend enough time, because in the beginning of the school year people were freaking out and thought the school was out to get you but now maybe if you do a survey you might get more of an objective perspective.

**Ryan:** This is more towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. I still have reservation about surveying people because people are worried about talking about it and it's hard to have an objective viewpoint in answering these questions.

**Matt:** The point is the more information the better. We have to be careful and remember that no piece of information by itself mean anything. We need to take in the aggregate, look at as much information as we can and put every piece of information on the table.

**Jason:** Something I'd like to see get put on docket for next year was having the small focus groups and I'd like to see it.

**Matt:** We have to make sure we are careful about them and make sure they are consistent.

**Ryan:** I feel that it's hard to find good qualitative data. Focus groups would be very selective and sometimes quantitative data is either too specific or too broad in obtaining valuable information.

**Monica:** I think that with the focus groups and that kind of study you might get some support from Nancy Areas in research assistantships.

**Matt:** Given the information that Dean Levy has for the fall this past fall, there doesn't seem like there has been an increase in alcohol cases.

**Morgan:** That's exactly what the data is saying.

**Matt:** So, we can look at that and say that they aren't drinking so much on the quad, we are dealing with a problem. Here it is on the fraternity quad and all we've done is switch it. What didn't happen was that it didn't go up exponentially and the data would have showed that, but Ryan is right, we need to look at more specific information.

**Ryan:** Also, I threw out this idea during a 1<sup>st</sup> semester meeting, but I don't think we should talk about it here was the idea of perceptions. Could that have created a problem because people thought the new policy was too restrictive but it wasn't and that's still going to alter their behavior? Considering that fraternities and other events don't throw more than 3 parties on any day anyways, possibly raising the number to 4 would alter perceptions the other way. Still we wouldn't be hosting more than 3 parties anyways but if we ever wanted to host more than 3

parties, say on Halloween, that would eliminate the need for security, alter perceptions and make life a little easier for everyone, but that's something for you to talk about next semester.

**Melissa:** The safety factor of having 4 parties without the additional security may lend that special event to have problems.

**Jason:** Does the Dean of Students Office does reserve the right to deny registration?

**Morgan:** We do. I feel that increasing the number of the parties would be just manipulating our students. We'd be saying we think you are not intelligent enough to realize that that perception is wrong so we're going to placate you by changing the policy but really nothing has changed. I think it would be better to educate them by telling them that their perception was wrong. There are is nothing wrong with just the 3 parties.

**Matt:** Ryan, don't forget that by changing it again, you're changing perceptions and we don't really know what those perceptions will be.

**Ryan:** I guess wait to see what those changed perceptions and if for some reason I'm right we can then reconsider it and this time we can do it without surprising everyone.

**Linda:** Security has 3 as their threshold and if there were 4 they would have to have an extra person on in case or they would have to call that person in. For 3 parties they can handle it with the staff they have and if there were a 4<sup>th</sup>, just the amount of people involved, they would have to bring another person on. Students might think that we can start having 4 and security would have that extra expense of having that extra person.

**Jason:** If we do expand to 4, there may be, for a short time, that yes there will be fraternities that will take advantage of that but if there really aren't more than 3 parties at any time, it will shift back to that.

**Melissa:** What is the benefit of expanding to 4?

**Jason:** It changes the perception.

**Matt:** The point is we aren't going to change anything now.

**Morgan:** When we meet in June, we can find a date for everyone that works and discuss what to take on for next semester and the sub-committees can continue to work together.

**Linda:** Think about parent orientation. Right now we have a program that UHS and UCC does and we're full. We fill every minute of our time slot, but to have a program about alcohol would be useful. We can't just have a little 5 minute presentation about it. I know the schedule is out and it may be too late but maybe we could have handouts, about the whole thing that parents do have an influence and encourage and support.

**Melissa:** Parents may have questions about the policy.

**Linda:** Right, they may have questions about why we're not bringing this up. I know the time is limited but if we're going to do something with the parents we need to do it soon.

**Morgan:** Yeah, I'll e-mail Eleanor so see if we can stick a program in about this.

**Melissa:** I think that parents will make time to go. The parents that truly want to be there will make time to go and be there.

**Matt:** We will keep the minutes for all current members.