

Name of Meeting: SCAPE Meeting

Date of Meeting: 12/16/11

Committee Members Present:

- Morgan Levy
- Palida Noor
- Andrea Golden
- Alicia Lewis
- Kaitlin Organisciak
- Caitlyn Behmlander
- Melissa Kelly
- Brittany Atkins
- Monica Miranda Smalls
- Ashley Chiu
- Laurel Contomanolis
- Harry Brookstein
- Tess Petersen

Morgan: I appreciate everyone coming together today—I know it's a hard time of year. I want to make sure that we wrap up what we want our recommendations for Dandelion Day to be today and start thinking about our bi-annual review, which will be happening next year. I passed around notes from our last meeting—

- **Our BIG recommendations for D-Day:** Our goal is to have fewer alcohol-related issues, vandalism, etc. and a more inclusive event for all students. We have agreed there will be more consistent following of our alcohol policies, we will not allow open containers, we will not allow their to be events registered outside of our alcohol policy. We discussed their being more activities on D-Day, and providing more support to coordinate the events of the day.

Discussion: Potentially moving D-Day to after the last day of classes, which is where it historically lived. We would schedule the concert for that evening, and make sure classes across the University and its graduate schools are not being held during that time. I want to make sure that everyone can provide their feedback about moving it back to where it originally lived, the last day of classes.

- **Monica:** We have talked about moving D-Day to the last day of classes across many meetings at nauseum, but I think that it is something we should definitely be doing at this point.
- **Laurel:** I agree. It may be a difficult transition, especially because Saturday as the default is something students will want to hold on to. Students will want to continue the tradition on Saturday, which means double-duty for ResLife staff once everyone else leaves for the weekend.
- **Morgan:** I think that Saturday would still be getting support from ODOS, from Security, from the people that have supported Dandelion Day in the past. For the first year or two, it will be an adjustment.
- **Laurel:** We'll have to see what's going on once it happens—will students be hanging out in the residential halls? Maybe they'll be on the fraternity quad? Etc.
- _____: But we need to recognize the fact that there won't be the "crazy factor" as there has been on D-Days in the past because the same expectations are going to be upheld.

The same number of parties will be allowed to be officially registered and if a fraternity would want to have a party in Drama House, for example, they would have to follow the same rules they've had to all year long. Policies in place will guard Saturday unlike it has been protected previously. Students will not be able to have parties in the morning since the policy does not allow them to be registered before a certain time.

- **Morgan:** Thinking of our campus community more generally, students might be thinking things along the lines of “we should be able to do what we want to do” and that’s not a good argument. Keep in mind what the purpose of D-Day is and how we preserve those important components outside of the alcohol-culture that has infiltrated the event over the years.
- **Laurel:** I have to disagree. I think that Saturday will be hell for ResLife. This year especially will be a “hell no” response, and with pre-gaming and everything else, students will just do events whether or not they’ll be able to officially register events. I am not saying “Don’t move forward” but I’m just trying to be realistic about what will happen to ResLife.
 - **Monica:** I hear you, Laurel. We set things up generally for those who will do things that we don’t want them to do. How would this look if we set it up for the ones that are actually going to do the right thing? For the ones that will actually follow the rules and change their behavior because they know that their behavior will not be looked at in the same way? We set things up in a deficit perspective, because that’s how we think, but I think we’re still focusing on the negatives, making the assumption that it’ll be bad and preparing for that. I know this sounds very optimistic. But how does it look if we plan for the students who will do the right thing—what will that look like?

Monica: Do students stay stupid because we allow them to stay stupid? Because we don’t enforce the rules in the past as we are supposed to?

- **Laurel:** I think ResLife will need an incredible amount of support this year. The RA’s have definitely raised the bar in stopping pre-gaming this year but even with the GA’s and AC’s on staff also, we will need more support beyond our ranks alone.
- **Monica:** We’re talking about transformative change here.
- **Alicia:** By moving it to Tuesday, people will get drunk on Tuesday. There will be people who will break the rules on Tuesday, and that’s their own mean-spirited efforts. But I don’t think that students will be drinking excessively on Saturday. D-Day has given them an excuse in the past to make a drink in the morning and go somewhere, but this year there will be no where for them to go. Granted, partying in the residential halls may still occur, but it’ll be better. From the perspective of being prepared, I’d say prepare for the worst without actually saying that’s what you are doing to students.
- **Laurel:** I don’t disagree with that at all. We’re always talking about building traditions that will last well into the future and in this scenario we are trying to extinguish one. That won’t be without its difficulties is all I’m saying.
- It’s not about just moving the day, but also being consistent about other policies—not allowing open containers, sticking to our guns in terms of registration, etc. If we are across the board enforcing policies that in the past have not been enforced as well, things will work better for us than they have before.

Laurel: D-Day is usually the Saturday before the end of classes, so what's to stop people from doing things on that day since our "official" D-Day won't be until three days later?

- **Morgan:** Just because students will wake up in the morning and pretend it is D-Day does not mean that their plans will go off without a hitch. We need to be looking at this idea of moving D-Day not from the perspective of everything that might go wrong, but more generally, strictly determining if it's a good idea just for the sake of the idea if that makes sense...Let's go through the Pros and Cons: what will be achieved by moving it to Tuesday.

Pros:

- We are realigning with the tradition of D-Day (sort of kind of).
- We can do more, such as carnival rides, which have previously been cut out because of the excessive drinking that has taken place.
- Classes are still going on, so people have items in their schedules like classes, work, etc. that they don't typically have on a Saturday.
- All of the students who have typically gone off campus to get away from the drinking will be more apt to participate because there will be more going on that in years past.
- The number of alumni and off-campus people will be reduced on a Tuesday. We love alums, but having them come on D-Day doesn't add positively to our campus community typically.
- Having an afternoon/evening versus an entire day of programming (whether students create the programming or not) will be easier.
- We are making a move in a positive direction, in line with the University's environmental strategies and doing as we say we are going to do.

Cons:

- We need to double-check with the graduate schools about their schedules so that we don't conflict with their classes by having a concert.
- Students may have other commitments such as work, which will limit their ability to participate.
- It's difficult to predict the students' response to the shifting tradition.

Needs:

- Who is going to cave? I question support at the higher levels and how that need will be met.
- Will the consistency of policies be maintained as it should be?
- \$\$\$\$

_____ : Alicia, by moving the event to Tuesday, does that mean there's greater potential to get a more popular band if the evening is less popular than a Saturday?

- **Alicia:** That really depends. Hiring a band is a crapshoot, so it may be better for us but not necessarily since it is really about when the bands are free anyway.

Morgan: We've seen what happens when things get better, and then get worse; we take a step forward and then get pushed back two steps. The buy-in of one class year of students will not be effective enough for the changes we seek to make, so looking at the bigger picture will be very important. As administrators, we've lived through this and we know what has happened and what changes we want to see. But I'm curious, for the students here, are you seeing things that work?

Alicia: To me, I also think that we need to do the Pros and Cons of keeping D-Day on Saturday, since we need to keep both sides of the argument in mind.

Morgan: In my mind, even though I might be impacted by my previous experiences, it seems as though there are more pros than cons on the Tuesday list. True?

Harry: Has there been thought about how to get buy-in from students? It is a con, but have we been considering how to actually do it?

- **Monica:** The first students we need to buy in are the ones around this table. Before we even get students outside this room to buy in, the real question is whether or not you all buy in at this moment?
- **Harry:** Not really. Personally, I don't buy in because I think it's been proven that a small group can buy into something but not get the rest of the body to join in. It happened with the bar parties: a group of students worked very hard to make them feasible and then other students failed to respect that, resulting in their moratorium. Yeah, maybe you can convince me and others around this table, but I don't see how it will survive on campus.
- From the Senate, there was a resounding "No" to move it to Tuesday. I think a faculty representative from SCAPE should come to Senate, because those students were elected by other students to serve as their constituents. That might be the best way to get student buy in.
- **Morgan:** Of course we would ideally want all students to buy into our plan, and that may or may not happen. But at the very least, we need the students in this room to buy in and then go out into the community and serve as advocates to explain why this makes sense. I don't want to have Town Hall Meetings and Open Forums on this subject, because good conversations rarely come out of them. It is frequently a few angry people repeatedly expressing their opinions.
 - o **Laurel:** I was at one last week and it was actually very much like a conversation and respectful. There were people who disagreed but there was a dialogue going on.
 - o **Harry:** I think the specific forum you are referring to was two years ago and that was presented as "Dean Burns and Dean Levy will be present so come out and express your opinion." If we change how we advertise it, or don't necessarily advertise it widespread, then that situation will probably be avoided all together.

Monica: I go back to the fact that we're never going to please everybody. But we are here to vet this situation as best as we can and do what works best for our community. That is our charge. If that's our charge, then are we going to not do the right thing because it's not what the campus wants? Or are we going to make a change because we know it's what we have to do? This is going to be about adaptation. Things will get easier. And it really is about doing the right thing, which we need to agree on across the board.

Alicia: There are too many irresponsible individuals interacting with somewhat responsible individuals, and there are a lot of factors that go into this situation. To not think realistically is wrong.

_____: I think it will be key to go to Senate and have the conversation knowing that it may not be well-received. People are trying to represent different views in that forum. Upper administration and Wallis Hall will want to know how students are feeling—100% up in arms, 50/50, etc and then determine how to move forward in terms of University policy on the matter across the board.

Alicia: If we stick with Saturday and better enforcement, what are the pros, cons and needs?

Pros:

- There's one day to worry about. No need to convince students that it has changed.
- Students will not be as up in arms, even with policy changes. Perhaps less restlessness—
- Faculty members prefer to have it on Saturday with no potential for class disruption.

Cons:

- Students who did not participate previously will still not participate.
- We can't make the same kind of change we want to if the day remains the same—therefore, we will be less effective.
- It will be status quo (minimum change).
- It will be more difficult to separate the alcohol from D-Day if it stays on Saturday. It will cost a lot more \$\$\$ to make the changes in enforcement we want to have and the symbolism won't be broken in the way we want it to be.

Needs:

- Consistent policy enforcement
- More support from faculty/staff
- More \$\$\$
- Is Security prepared to up the ante like we need them to?

Distinguishing between Dandelion Day and D-Day is important. Dandelion Day is representative of CAB's efforts, the University perspective, and the activities, etc. D-Day is the drinking component that has been built up by students over the years. Dandelion Day is what we are considering moving, D-Day is what we are looking to change entirely.

Morgan: The truth is that the Dandelion Day component, what our tradition is all about, has been minimized as the D-Day component has augmented over time. That's the issue here. I'm not feeling good about where we are with this right now. SCAPE does more than just D-Day, but I think we need to have one more meeting before we propose the Senate conversation, where we can wrap up what we're doing here and specify our options.

FINAL POINT: We need to know where the University is on this issue. After everything we've done and discussed and considered, we need to know what Wallis Hall is thinking. Things have grown and changed, not necessarily for the better, and their support will be central to making our changes effective.