

SCAPE- January 20, 2012

Present: Morgan Levy, Alicia Lewis, Melissa Kelley, Dana Perrin, Mark Fischer, John DiSarro, Brittany Hopkins, Laurel Contomanolis, Monica Miranda-Small, Andrea Golden, Mike Kemp-Schneider, Tess Petersen, Harry Brookstein, Travis Block, Vinny Derienzo, Evalyn Chiu, David Wu, Clay Monson, Ashley Chu, Bradley Halpern, Palida Noor

Dandelion Day

Dean Levy: I sent out the Recommendations for Dandelion Day and had asked the group to respond; does the lack of response mean everyone is ok with it? We want this to be an accurate representation of how we feel about this topic before we finalize it.

Mark Fischer: Is this forwarded to the President?

Dean Levy: It will be forwarded to Dean Burns and Dean Feldman for review and they will send it along.

Speaker: Are there options here about the student perspective?

Dean Levy: Yes.

Speaker: What do we do on that Saturday?

Laurel Contomanolis: We don't know what Saturday is it going to be?

Dean Levy: We can more easily talk about details once it is more finalized. We'll need more resources to support multiple days that it could occur if we are to move the day.

Laurel Contomanolis: In one year we won't accomplish everything we want to accomplish. How do we measure the success of the day for this year?

Dean Levy: It will be an important task to develop the metrics through which we will evaluate the success of the day.

Laurel Contomanolis: We're hopeful that it is successful this year but if it a failure we don't want to shelve it.

Speaker: How are specific steps for organizing this day going to come about?

Dean Levy: A meeting outside of SCAPE will occur once the recommendations have been received to discuss the next steps to take.

Speaker: How will the decision about the day be forwarded to the rest of the student body?

Dean Levy: That will be a task for the meeting outside of SCAPE. SCAPE's task was to come up with recommendations that address the role of alcohol on Dandelion Day—another group of people will do something with those recommendations.

Harry Brookstein: I'm uncomfortable with the statement that implies that student ideas will fail—I think this language is a little harsh.

Speaker: Is it that the second group favors an abrupt shift as opposed to the first group?

Dean Levy: It is that the administrators favor an abrupt shift in the way the day is run.

Dean Levy: It is hard because I see one side of Dandelion Day but in the past, efforts really did not work. There have been significant conversations about how to improve Dandelion Day holistically. Other people who have been here longer might be able to affirm this.

Laurel Contomanolis: Are you concerned that the language is too strong?

Harry Brookstein: It might be important to look at what has changed in the student body within the past 3, 5, 10 years.

Laurel Contomanolis: There have been many tweaks to D-Day over the past 10 years. There have been breakfasts, bagels in Danforth, more rides, less rides, etc.

John DiSarro: Can you explain this gradual change approach? Do you have the same ultimate end goal, just over a longer time frame? Or do you see the gradual changes going in a different direction? This has caused some confusion.

Harry Brookstein: My understanding is that it would still be on Saturday with a gradual change. An issue is that there is a concert at 2pm but a lot of drinking has already occurred.

Speaker: There are different opinions on the end goal of Dandelion Day. Some think that there should be no alcohol involved while others think that alcohol is an integral part of the day and should be used but not abused. My understanding is that the group that supports an abrupt change in the day also support the idea that alcohol does not need to be part of the day.

Speaker: It seems that one group wants to get to the end goals fast while another group wants to take a few years to get there but they have the same goals but this doesn't seem to be true.

Dean Levy: I don't think there is a way to just tone down alcohol use because of expectations that are already in place about Dandelion Day. In my mind, the thought was to take alcohol out of the day until it can be reintroduced into the day in a safer way, perhaps at a dinner with drinks.

Speaker: I don't know if it's productive to think about the end goals of Dandelion Day if we're still trying to change this either way. I think both groups will agree on the goals listed but ultimately I think students and faculty will probably view the day differently. I agree with Harry that the "failure" line is a little biased.

Dean Levy: I can think of other language to replace the "failure" line. I found it useful to think of the role of alcohol on Dandelion Day. I can include that students feel that alcohol should be part of the day if that is something that our students feel.

Student Speaker: I do think that alcohol should be part of the day. I think many conversations were unproductive because of different end goals.

Student Speaker: I think a definite goal should be increased safety. I imagine a situation in which alcohol is available to students but in a context in which they drink responsibly. Limitation might be bad because we want students to make their own memories.

Bradley Halpern: How do you get people to not want to drink? We need to try to educate them and try to persuade them not to want to drink. From a CAB perspective I don't think we can do that by planning events large enough to deter students from drinking. People go into Dandelion Day expecting a lot of drinking. The only way to change this is to present something better than student expectation. If Dandelion Day were a surprise day students would have no expectations or plans for the day—comparable to "Senior Skip Day" in high school.

Alicia Lewis: I like the idea of it being a surprise day but I don't know how feasible that would be because we would have to involve Event Support, Facilities, Security, etc. and word could get out. But if students found out that morning, they would not have time to purchase alcohol.

Dean Levy: I think there might be ways to make things surprises—maybe not the whole thing since so many students are involved in planning but possibly parts could be kept secret.

Student Speaker: When students hear Dandelion Day they will start making their own plans for the day. This is hard to compete with once plans are in the making.

Dean Levy: I will make the "failure" line to something more representative of our perception of what has happened in the past and will pass on the recommendations to Dean Burns and Dean Feldman. There will be a meeting next week to talk about the recommendations and moving forward.

Student Speaker: I think Bradley's idea could possibly work in the future—maybe 5 years out but it would be hard to implement for this year.

Dean Levy: I will edit the recommendations, send them out to this group, and send it to Dean Burns.

Events with Alcohol

Dean Levy: One of President Seligman's recommendations was that we create guidelines for requiring food to be served at events with alcohol. We had a random selection of food that was being put out at parties so we should clarify what food and how much food should be provided.

John DiSarro: We came up with 3 general options: sub sandwiches, pizza, and hamburgers and cheeseburgers. As far as quantity, we came up with having enough food for 1/3 of the people at the party because that is the estimated number of people that would be eligible to drink at a party. It doesn't make sense to have all the fraternities offer food because people go from party to party at different times in the night. We also talked about keeping the food away from the general party area so that it is more appealing and sanitary. The sanitarian suggested that the food be delivered in stages because food cannot be left out for more than 2 hours.

Student Speaker: Is there someone solely in charge of the food at each party? Or is it a collective responsibility to make sure the food is tended to?

Speaker: This could be a check-off on the registration form to ensure this.

Speaker: This could be the event managers but in the past we haven't specified other jobs related to throwing a party so if we were to do that, we should specify people for the other jobs too.

Dana Perrin: The proposal that Theta Chi put together is a good model for others to see. It was for a specific reason but it was very well done.

Dean Levy: A statement about who would be tending to the food could be added to the Events With Alcohol packet rather than the Event Registration form to make sure people are aware of this responsibility.

Speaker: I'm assuming that the group hosting the event is providing the food?

Dean Levy: Yes.

Laurel Contomanolis: I'm skeptical because freshmen are coming back from the fraternity quad and it seems that they have been drinking. I think the 1/3 number is too small. I think there are more people drinking that may be under-aged. If you have about 100 people at a party, and you order 2 pizzas, that seems pretty little.

Dean Levy: I think there is more than 1/3 of the people at frat parties drinking so giving anyone food would be good so that they have food in their stomach so they're not

drinking more and getting sick is a benefit. Feedback from the fraternities was that they should not have to pay for people who were drinking before hand, before arriving at their parties. We should see how this goes; see if the food is being eaten and if it is helping reduce problems involved with drinking.

Speaker: When I'm planning, I think people eat more than 1 slice of pizza so I agree that more food might be necessary. I agree that fraternities shouldn't have to pay for people that are drinking before coming to their parties.

Laurel Contomanolis: It seems like it should be a shared responsibility considering people typically go from party to party.

Speaker: If it's a shared responsibility I think there should be a shared funding system.

Laurel Contomanolis: I agree that there are some shared things; pre-gaming is happening.

Speaker: There is also the issue of people going to see friends on the frat quad and drinking with them in their rooms rather than joining the party downstairs. I have seen people be turned away for being too intoxicated.

Dean Levy: I think it's a good start and we will see how it goes and evaluate down the road.

Ashley Chiu: We've been talking about pre-gaming and it makes sense to have food but if people are consuming the food after they have already started drinking it's not very effective. I like the idea but have we thought about having food before the events start? It might be hard to plan but if people could eat before they start drinking it would be ideal.

Dean Levy: We will try to solve pre-gaming later in the semester.

DFSA Biennial Review

Dean Levy: The responsibility of SCAPE is to create a document talking about all the programs and initiatives the University has to address the issue of drugs and alcohol on campus. We are a little overdue with this document; if we were strictly following the guideline it should have been completed in December. In 2009 we worked on it in this committee and we came to the realization that it would be best to have a subcommittee to just do it. We reach out to the other offices related to drugs and alcohol and asked those programs to evaluate what they need to change to make their program better. Clay is interested in helping with the subcommittee.

Documenting and Evaluating the Effectiveness of Responses to President's report

Dean Levy: We have 3 things that we are to focus on from the President's report: pre-gaming, security check/event registration, and food at events with alcohol. How do we implement efforts that we've made, how do we measure the effectiveness of the efforts? Pre-gaming is the most difficult topic.

Laurel Contomanolis: I don't know if people realize this but just over the bridge by Boulder Coffee there is a Subway that just opened. There is also a diner that just opened near there. Subway might want to get involved in the issue of food at events with alcohol.

Dean Levy: The recommendation about food is that there is good quality food and soft drinks that is offered to act as a buffer to alcohol; security officers check and there is meaningful enforcement of this requirement. I think that there are clear expectations but in terms of implementation, at the end of the semester there will be full implementation. How do we measure the effectiveness and impact of this effort? We could look at how much food is left at the end of events. How would we gather that information? Officers could go in and check.

Speaker: Officers could observe what was there to begin with and what they observed on later checks.

Dean Levy: I'm thinking about measuring effectiveness of this this semester but I think it will be difficult because there won't be many events on the fraternity quad considering some of the organizations are on a status that does not allow them to have events. If we see a drastic reduction of people who say that they got drunk after being at the fraternity quad, it might just be because there are fewer events.

Dana Perrin: Last semester we saw some differences because 1) the supplement of having officers there helped, and 2) having Tony go through houses before parties even started helped a lot. To continue to have the expectation of checks before a party helps Security because it adds consistency. During initiation, we had to respect ceremonies going on in fraternity houses but having a good relationship with the fraternities helped us to have a better grasp on what was happening.

Harry Brookstein: We had a good experience last semester, especially with Tony. We got to know him and he was helpful. He did pre-checks, which gave us a chance to correct things that were missing or incorrect. It was a healthy relationship between the fraternities and Tony.

Dana Perrin: Usually it's Tony and someone else going with him.

Harry Brookstein: Having a relationship with Tony and the other officer that was with him was helpful because I was so much more comfortable going to Tony and asking him to help deal with a situation than having to deal with it myself. It makes you feel a lot

more comfortable having someone you can trust. We have felt a generally better connection with Security this year.

Dean Levy: When we meet 2 weeks from now we will look more deeply into these recommendations and start developing how we will assess them and I again want to thank everyone for coming and sharing your perspective.