

SCAPE—February 3, 2012

Present: Morgan Levy, Melissa Kelley, John DiSarro, Andrea Golden, Birx Allen, David Wu, Monica Smalls, Ashley Chu, Mark Fischer, Dana Perrin, Tess Peterson

Food at Parties

Dean Levy: Last time we talked about the Biennial Review (Clay is interested in helping with that and we're overdue on that), looking at the President's recommendations about having good soft drinks and food at events with alcohol, which will be implemented this semester, and how we are going to measure the success and impact of having food.

Melissa Kelley: What would the action be if security were to see that there was not sufficient food or no food at all at events with alcohol?

Dana Perrin: In the discretionary mode, if it's on the first pass through it's prudent to go to the membership of the group and let them know they are missing necessary things. As it stands now, by having Tony in place earlier in the evening before parties we've been able to do that. When Tony is making a pre-check at 9:15-9:30 that's the first step of alerting the group that they're missing something. The fraternities are very in tune with Tony and communicate with him. If the first check is at 9:30 and there is a lack of necessary things this will not be documented. If they don't take necessary steps after being reminded, then there will be documentation of that violation.

John DiSarro: Say, if by chance they run out of food by 12:30 what would happen?

Dana Perrin: If we see food at 10:30 but not at 12:30 we can evaluate that.

Melissa Kelley: From a sanction perspective, what if a group doesn't have food?

Dean Levy: If a group never puts food out, security will shut them down.

Dean Levy: I think we should evaluate this sometime in March and we can look through reports and see what food there is and how much is gone by the end of the night.

Andrea Golden: Would Spring Break be the cut off?

Dean Levy: Yes, maybe the first SCAPE meeting after Spring Break. We'll get the information that is collected during the events and also the perspective of groups that hosted events.

Dean Levy: Another thought about this is that this mainly addresses events that happen on the Fraternity Quad but there are other events that occur, particularly off campus. We don't have an off-campus registration process or notification process but in my mind, these same said standards apply. We can't send people in to check that food is being supplied but I think it would be helpful to set that expectation for food.

John DiSarro: Are we trying to document exactly what off-campus things are happening?

Dean Levy: We would just change the off-campus notification form to provoke thought about providing food if events involve alcohol because we know that food is a useful thing for events with alcohol and to emphasize that it is our expectation that they will follow guidelines.

John DiSarro: That sounds reasonable to me.

Dean Levy: There is the question of whether or not people will do it and if it will become a joke. I worry about that aspect of it. How do we work around that. On campus shouldn't be an issue because there will be checks but off-campus events won't have checks.

Speaker: How far is the University's reach off-campus?

Dean Levy: We won't ever go check off-campus events. Really, it's just hoping that students will follow the guidelines. How do we engage students so that they want to provide food at off-campus events?

Melissa Kelley: Ideally if we saw less incidence of "intox" calls then sometimes, proof is in what you see—if there are fewer concerns about students that may actually spread.

Dean Levy: So that is logically but how do we convince people that it is better to have fewer intoxication transportations. One positive thing that could be presented is that groups will get in trouble less because students would be less intoxicated from their events.

Speaker: Are you putting sanctions on off-campus events?

Dean Levy: Yes, if we find out about incidents from off-campus events they still go through the same procedures as if it were on-campus. We just don't find out about off-campus events as much.

Speaker: So if the Chi Phi house gets in trouble, can we put them on probation?

Dean Levy: Yes because they are an organization that exists through the University.

Speaker: How would we enforce probation if we're not going to their house?

Dean Levy: They could eventually be derecognized from the University as an organization if they continue to violate policy.

Speaker: If the University derecognizes them it's still a house of derecognized members.

Speaker (Security): With Chi Phi, we usually know when people are going to a party there because they're crossing the bridge and going to a limited number of possible places.

Speaker: What is the worthy incentive to get students to realize this is a meaningful thing that we should be doing?

Speaker: Do they have a connection to having funding from the University?

Speaker: Chi Phi does apply a lot for student activities supplementary funding. There are some things that if the group doesn't have privileges they would not be able to do.

Speaker: Do you make a requirement for funds that groups bring receipts that document the fact that there was food purchased for the event and that the food was present at the event? In order to apply for funding they must show that they have been adhering to policy.

Dean Levy: That is SA's job to deal with funds, not the University Administration's job. We're not saying that off-campus events are not ok, we're saying that we want groups to notify us if there are off-campus events that will be occurring. There is a part of me that thinks we don't want to be getting into seeing all receipts because we're not approving events, we're just saying "thank you" for notifying us about them.

John DiSarro: If you have an organization that has 400 members and they turn in food receipts, we don't actually know if those receipts are from events. So we would have to define what turning in receipts means.

Dean Levy: We would have to communicate with those organizations. But it's not just off-campus fraternities it's sports teams and performance groups as well.

Speaker: Could we bring representatives of all off-campus groups together and have a meeting about it? Generally, people are very reasonable and thoughtful in that setting.

Dean Levy: We do have to really start thinking about off-campus events because they are happening more and more. On another note, do the recommendations about food and drink really include much about non-alcoholic drinks?

Speaker: It is already included in the policy that X-number of non-alcoholic drinks must be available.

John DiSarro: A lot of the frats have drink machines in their basement so it's not usually a problem. We've talked to frats about having cups by the machines.

Dean Levy: Sometimes groups provide drink mix like Tang in a big container, which doesn't seem appetizing or safe to me.

John DiSarro: We talked to the groups last semester about that.

Dean Levy: Great. I think we have a good plan for how we will assess success on and off campus.

Speaker: For the business that might be involved in hosting events, are they ever in a positive solution to encourage the organization to have food?

Dean Levy: There are policies if groups are having events at bars.

Speaker: Some businesses at Penn State have shut down and some businesses there are working to positively cohabitate with the college.

Dean Levy: Dana sent me an article about how the President of Dartmouth created a coalition of Ivy League schools to address the issue of alcohol on their campuses. Right now they're information-gathering. One interesting I found interesting was the idea of revising social hosts. Most schools have social hosts—students that are paid to be social hosts and they must be present in order to have social events. These social hosts seem very effective in approaching intoxicated people and getting them help or making sure that under-aged people are not being served alcohol.

Melissa Kelley: The social host system will be completely different next school year. It is going to be bystander focused and there will be more marketing related to it. It's not one that currently exists so it will be just for us.

Dean Levy: We don't have to address that now, we can talk about it once it's ready.

Speaker: We had Student Marshals and it was a very attractive position. If you were a student leader you were most likely a student marshal. People wanted to do this because of the prestige of it but there was also some incentive, like free tickets to events, that went along with it.

Birx Allen: We have the Sober Sister program in my sorority in which there is a designated Sober Sister and that sister will go up to sisters and let them know if they need to "slow down" with their drinking or even go as far as to escort them from the event if necessary. This system works well between peers that trust each other but it might be harder to implement when the interaction would be between strangers.

Dean Levy: We should consult with other schools to see how they deal with similar issues that we are dealing with.

John DiSarro: I think it's still important to keep the organization hosting the party involved with the liability of the attendants.

Dean Levy: From my perspective it seems like it's difficult for someone within an organization to fulfill the role that a social host or marshal would fulfill. It might be easier for someone outside of the organization to do that.

Speaker: What do other schools do about having students at off-campus venues such as bars?

Dean Levy: I know that at a lot of our peer institutions, the Fraternity houses are not on campus. We have a judicial officers meeting coming up in June so we can see what it looks like at other schools.

Speaker: I wonder if the third-party set up in the same way at other schools or if the 3rd-party social hosts are more common. I would need to check with national organizations to see if they would be supportive of having non-associated hosts at events.

Dean Levy: I want to get to the other points on the list—the idea that is included in the Charge to the Committee that The College should consider requiring more frequent Security checks and registration of parties with anticipated guests of 25 or more in addition to

members or residents. I think we already do advise this, we just don't phrase it in this exact way.

Speaker: What's the typical occupancy of a house?

Dean Levy: 100-120 people

Speaker: How many members usually live in the fraternity houses?

Speaker: Anywhere from 18-36; usually about 25 members.

Speaker: Well, are we talking about members in general or members that live in a frat house? Because if we're talking about members in general we are looking at about 50 people. If each person has 1 friend, that's already 100 people.

John DiSarro: For fraternities and sororities that are mixing, we usually estimate about 75 people. If everyone showed up the event would need to be registered. We haven't been having a problem with having mixers registered but it gets tricky when it's a more casual gathering where each member just invites some friends.

Dean Levy: I don't know what the barriers to registering are. Why wouldn't someone register an event, other than they don't want to meet with John?

Speaker: It's probably a matter of numbers. If you hit a certain number it's considered a party, which is more involved.

Dean Levy: I can understand that. Let's focus on changing the language of the current policy. I think that the impact of changing it will not be that significant because I think it's going to be very similar to what we already do. If we do think it will have a more significant impact we have to think more critically about how we're going to roll it out and present it to the campus population.

Speaker: I agree but I still think it needs to be communicated that it will be changed in order to improve clarity.

Dean Levy: We can say that we'll implement the 25 or more policy for the 2012-2013 academic year but we think we're already capturing such events anyways.

John DiSarro: Would this be 25 guests at a time or 25 guests for the events, total.

Dean Levy: 25 guests for the event; 25 guests at a time would be complicated.

Speaker: That came up in the registration form. If it's a flow event where the total guest number is 200 but you're not expecting everyone to stay, this is a situation that is hard to control.

Dean Levy: This can be a question for Event Registration Committee. In my mind, a flow party doesn't mean that people should get more than 1-2 beers. In terms of requiring more security checks, I want to think about the ways we are already doing this. We have an officer

on the quad during parties. Harry expressed that he felt it was helpful to have a good relationship with Security.

Speaker: From a management point of view, having a good relationship helps when we have to have conversations with group representatives about events and situations.

Dean Levy: I think we have a plan for event Security checks and registration.

Pregaming

Dean Levy: Our last order of business is thinking of ways to discourage pregameing, which I think is the most difficult effort. One effort is increasing the presence and response of RA's on the weekends.

Birx Allen: I'm a quad freshman RA and the Area Coordinator changed policy so that we go with another RA so that we can work together and get a better feel for what's happening. On nights when we know a lot is going on we'll make 3 rounds.

Dean Levy: I thought that maybe there was an emphasis on being more aggressive about knocking on doors if you hear something going on. Is that something that you've seen?

Birx Allen: I have and we had an RA training that was meant to help RA's recognize drug use more effectively. My boss told me that whenever you're in question, just call Security.

Dean Levy: What other efforts could we put forth to discourage pregameing?

Speaker: The easy answer is an education about it. But what's the jump-off point? Do you focus on first years?

John DiSarro: We did have a tradition that came out of the IFC Presidents at one time to do some kind of peer thing with the freshman. From the fraternity brothers' perspective, they were saying they don't want freshman to get drunk and go to their houses and get them in trouble but also, a lot of issues come out of drinking too much.

Speaker: Statistically, is it more common in freshman? It seems like we're focusing on freshman but what about those gap years between freshman year and turning 21?

Dean Levy: I think it would be good to get that data and look at ages of students and what they use. I think it is also important to come up with a collective definition for "pregameing."

Melissa Kelley: I think the reasoning behind pregameing has changed throughout the years. I think the rationale used to be economically. It was cheaper to drink before you got to where you were going because you wouldn't have to buy drinks. Now, I think it's because freshman can't get served alcohol at a bar party so they have to drink beforehand.

Dean Levy: Tess, what's your perspective on what pregameing is?

Tess Peterson: It's taking a bunch of shots or drinking a ton before you go somewhere so that is you're under 21 you can stay drunk for a long period of time. When I came in 2008, we didn't have any online alcohol education thing.

Melissa Kelley: This is the 2nd year an online alcohol education program has been in place; virtually everyone completed it. It's customized in that it gives feedback based on the information each student inputs about his or her own habits.

Birx Allen: I know that for my sorority we are required by Nationals to do an alcohol education program but a lot of people just speed through it.

Melissa Kelley: We are looking at a program right now that would make it impossible to speed through or not actually put effort into. It's more expensive and it's longer and there's a test involved.

Tess Peterson: I think those online programs are effective. I took one and learned a lot from it so I think they're beneficial. I also think John's idea of having Greek leaders talk to freshman because I think that the freshman that are using alcohol would listen to Greek leaders.

Speaker: I think we could make it a hall program for residence halls because I think freshman would look up to the Greeks.

Dean Levy: Maybe we can gather information about pre-gaming, maybe from the online alcohol survey.