

SCAPE—March 30, 2012

Present: Jared Hilton, Monica Smalls, Jessica Ecock, Laurel Contomanolis, Andrea Golden, Ben Swanson, John DiSarro, Morgan Levy.

Dean Levy: This definition of medical amnesty from the Department of Education's Higher Education Center for Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Violence Prevention—*Medical amnesty or Good Samaritan policies, are health protection strategies used on some campuses to encourage students to seek medical attention for fellow students suffering an alcohol or drug overdose. Under these policies, students are not sanctioned by the University for AOD violations.* They also talk about whether it's an effective prevention effort. Are students more likely to get help for their friend if they're not going to get in trouble themselves? I will send out these documents to everyone. We also don't want this to conflict with the efforts of the Second Chance Work Group.

Jessica Ecock: Responses are different for alcohol or drug use and for disturbing quiet hours. For example, since there is a second chance policy for alcohol and drug use but not for disrupting quiet hours, the latter will show up on the student's record while the alcohol and/or drug use will not because of second chance. Can we change what second chance means in terms of reporting it to other organizations? We might come up with a tiered level of what gets reported based on response.

Dean Levy: What are you thinking so far?

Jessica Ecock: So far we've been focusing on what violations make sense to report out. We're also thinking about how to give a better educational response to those violations so that it feels better to students and staff—if you're documented you have to do something, have an educational response, and then it doesn't go on your records.

Speaker: So do we have some sort of guide as to what to report?

Dean Levy: We want to do something responsible and that has integrity. I don't think it's appropriate to not report anything but I think that we should be make the focus helping the students make better decisions in the future. But no, there are no guidelines. What is everyone's gut feeling about medical amnesty?

Speaker: It's important to hear the outcomes of the discussions and hear the reactions

Jessica Ecock: It seems like medical amnesty and second chance are very similar. Maybe we could report our findings to SCAPE or give regular updates.

Dean Levy: I think you could come to SCAPE for the rest of the semester to talk about it.

John DiSarro: So the amnesty at other schools was a one shot thing?

Jessica Ecock: From what I've seen, there seems to not be a second chance policy.

John DiSarro: Were there guidelines as to what happens to student groups if it happens more than once? Are there sanctions or repercussions for something happening monthly as opposed to one time.

Dean Levy: Do they get immunity for providing alcohol? What is it that they are not responsible for? What if a group calls during a hazing event? Do they get away with hazing just because they called for help?

Laurel Contomanolis: Do we have any sense that at our institution that people are not calling when they need help?

John DiSarro: I had someone in my office yesterday saying that many take it upon themselves to take care of an intoxicated person and will not call for help most of the time.

Dean Levy: I have also talked to people who say that they are worried about calling in fear of getting in trouble. However it seems like there are still a lot of calls being made for help. It would be good to gather that information effectively. Maybe Melissa could add that question to what she's working on. What are other things we need more information about?

Jared Hilton: An issue is that people might not know the signs of alcohol poisoning; I've found that people don't call because they have little information about how sick the person actually is—what indicates a serious, emergency situation?

Jessica Ecock: If they know the consequences of alcohol use? If they think the punishment is worse than it actually is they might not call just to avoid consequences from the school.

Speaker: Will Security take an anonymous call?

Dean Levy: Yes.

Jessica Ecock: It seems like Security already is giving medical amnesty by not asking the caller if they are drunk; Security is focused on the person for whom the call is made.

Dean Levy: Having a conversation with a student and the student being in trouble are very different things but they might appear to be one in the same for students coming into our office.

Laurel Contomanolis: It seems like if fraternities see a problem at their party they call about it; hazing is a whole different thing. Is it the freshman students we are not hearing from?

John DiSarro: I think freshman, particularly.

Monica Smalls: So does this just cover alcohol? What if someone calls because they believe someone is being hazed?

Dean Levy: Our job isn't to get people in trouble. We are trying to help people to make better choices.

Jessica Ecock: Should we hear from the students about whether or not they feel medical amnesty would be helpful for them?

Dean Levy: Yes—I think we only hear from a small portion of the student body right now.

Andrea Golden: When students come to have a discussion about an incident is there time to ask them why they did or did not call for help?

Jessica Ecock: I think that's usually made clear in the security report.

Andrea Golden: In reviewing that data would there be a point where you learn a little bit more about the student's feelings during that time? When they meet with Melissa does she have an opportunity to find out more about how the incident unfolded?

Jessica Ecock: Most times, students are pretty honest and take responsibility for their actions.

Speaker: I think a lot of students are worried about their parents finding out or their record.

Dean Levy: In most of the cases we see, students are being transported to the hospital, in which case parents need to know about it.

Jessica Ecock: For some students it's the fee that is an issue. Some students argue that they should not have been transported.

Dean Levy: It might be useful for students to know the statistics on MERT. I have some tension because it is the law that people under 21 cannot drink but I also feel like we have an obligation to educate students and to connect people to education opportunities. What if a student is developing a dependency on alcohol or other drugs? An amnesty policy would not be useful for them.

Monica Smalls: Amnesty for the person who calls is different from a second chance for the intoxicated student. I think it's dangerous to say you won't get kicked out of school for drinking because what if other things result from the student being drunk.

Dean Levy: I think students that are repeat offenders of being drunk are not called out only because they're drunk but because they might damage property, get in a fight, etc.

Jared Hilton: The medical amnesty at Cornell applies only to things directly related to being drunk, for example physically appearing drunk. Once another thing happens such as violence the medical amnesty goes away.

Dean Levy: That is like our second chance policy right now.

Monica Smalls: Do students want a free pass to slip up? Do their friends want a free pass to call them out?

Ben Swanson: Based on conversations with some students, it seems they want to feel ok about calling for their friend; they want a clear path as to how to help their friend and they don't want to have consequences to think about.

Laurel Contomanolis: I think it's important for students to know where the line is between a first-tiered offense that won't get documented and something that will get documented. Students are worried about getting into law school, med school, etc.

Dean Levy: It should make a difference to med schools and law schools if students are repeatedly getting drunk.

Monica Smalls: I think there might be Academic Support connections; how early do our students know that their actions might show up later in their lives when they are trying to get jobs in the future. I think if students know that we will help them when they make mistakes that will help.

Laurel Contomanolis: I think a lot of students find themselves in trouble because there is more of an opportunity in college than there is in high school to get in trouble.

Dean Levy: There aren't as many safety nets. It's hard to walk the line between saying it is ok to mess up because it's a learning experience and saying there are consequences to messing up. I want to come up with some kind of formal recommendation for this by the end of the semester. I'm wondering if we can meet every Friday until the end of the semester to work on this.

Jessica Ecock: I can send an email describing the second chance policy.