

SCAPE—April 6, 2012

Present: Jared Hilton, Alicia Lewis, Melissa Kelley, Jessica Ecock, Dana Perrin, Mike Kemp-Schneider, Andrea Golden, Morgan Levy, John DiSarro

Dean Levy: To update, our committee is going to be reappointed by Dean Feldman and Andrew Wall is going to rejoin us. We started our conversation last week about medical amnesty and our second chance policy.

Jessica Ecock: Last week we came to a conclusive decision on what second chance should be. We decided that second chance should be given to students based on the response to a policy violation as opposed to being based on the policy violation itself. We decided to break it down into 2 categories: formal and informal responses. Formal responses are probation, removal from housing, and expulsion and would be reported to graduate schools, law school, med school, and the government. Informal responses are more educational in nature and would not be reported to grad schools etc.

Melissa Kelley: What if there is a formal and an informal response together?

Dean Levy: I think what we're doing is a fundamental shift in the way we report information to graduate schools so I propose that we get rid of the term second chance altogether and that our office change our reporting process and only report the formal actions taken.

Jessica Ecock: Second chance gives students a chance to correct their behavior and not do it again. If they do it again, it becomes a formal response and we take formal action on that. We won't change the training on second chance either.

Mike Kemp-Schneider: If someone has multiple violations, does someone see all of those?

Dean Levy: It's important on the part of the people that are meeting with the students to have discretion because someone might have multiple violations but not know it (ex. parking violation and noise violation)

Andrea Golden: Some of the violations are pretty mild and situational.

Alicia Lewis: Something like getting transported to the hospital because of alcohol—does that get reported whether it's the student's first time or not?

Dean Levy: It doesn't get reported if it's the first time at this point.

Dean Levy: It seems like there is a lack of firm research on whether or not medical amnesty is a useful system. I think we can agree that the policy we have now is a medical amnesty policy.

Melissa Kelley: I think our policy fits the criteria of a medical amnesty policy but I don't think it has been marketed in that way. What it is and how it works hasn't been effectively communicated to the students.

Dean Levy: The policy says that if you violate the alcohol policy you get connected to an educational service. As long as you complete that it is not formally reported. I think to students, having to come to the Dean of Students office to have a conversation is already a punishment. It sounds like we agree that what we have is a medical amnesty policy but it also seems like students are still afraid to call for help because they don't want to get in trouble.

Melissa Kelley: In October we did a survey of students. We asked students what they would do in a situation in which a student was heavily intoxicated. One of the options was to not help in fear of getting either the student or themselves in trouble. 86% of students DISAGREED with that statement. 83% disagreed with the statement saying they would feel out of place. 90% of students said they would talk to a friend if they felt they drank too much.

Alicia Lewis: From my experience in Res Life, people will help; it's just a matter of whether or not they're doing the right things to help.

Dean Levy: If we were to change the amnesty policy I think the questions on those surveys would be helpful to look at.

Melissa Kelley: I have changed the way alcohol education will be conducted starting in the fall.

Dean Levy: There are 3 areas where schools might decide to give amnesty: to the person who was drinking, to the person who called, and to the organization.

Melissa Kelley: I'm comfortable exempting the caller from punishment. I think if the person calling is also in need of medical attention because of how much they've also been drinking; I think that should be up to MERT to decide upon arriving at the site.

Andrea Golden: If someone is calling repeatedly it could be helpful for them to get some education and to reach out to them to see what's going on that causes them to always be calling for their friends.

Dean Levy: It wouldn't be formal and it wouldn't be that person getting in trouble.

Jessica Ecock: I think this mainly a problem in marketing, like we said earlier.

Dean Levy: I agree and I also think maybe there are things we should expand and add.

Mike Kemp-Schneider: Do we want to pay attention to how many calls from specific places we get?

Dean Levy: So if there were a lot of alcohol policy violations on a certain floor, we could do an educational thing for the floor.

Andrea Golden: The RAs on the floors are going to see and know about problems before the reports come in.

Dean Levy: I would like to have a document that says what our policy is and what our practice is.

Jessica Ecock: I think it's easier for organizations to approach Tony on the quad rather than calling in for help.

Dean Levy: This year I don't think there have been many calls from the frat quad for help. Are we comfortable with the levels of amnesty that we currently give?

Melissa Kelley: I am comfortable with it; I just think we need to market it differently.

Dean Levy: In the booklet we currently have, we don't have our practice in it.

Andrea Golden: I think it's important for us to look at the number of times someone is receiving amnesty.

Mike Kemp-Schneider: If someone has received amnesty several times they would have to meet with Melissa or myself so it would catch up with them.

Dean Levy: If the only reason they were showing up in our system is from being drunk, I'm wondering what the benefit of putting them on probation the second time it happens would be if we know they are going to get connected with a care or educational program.

Andrea Golden: So that would mean we would have no documentation or recording if someone has an alcohol problem and that wouldn't go to law schools and medical schools?

Melissa Kelley: My concern is that without probation and without a level of accountability and responsibility that students would take advantage of that.

Alicia Lewis: Clearly there is the consistent trouble kind of person but for me it's the grey areas of 2 or 3 students drinking wine in their room and an RA sees that somehow. There are different levels of violation to me.

Dean Levy: There are very few students that get transported more than once. After the second transport the student is connected to different resources and the student will go on probation and it will be reported to graduate and professional schools.

Andrea Golden: What if a student quietly is drinking wine in their room? They're still breaking the law but they are not being disruptive.

Dean Levy: But how do we know about those students?

Melissa Kelley: Usually when people meet with me they learn something and if they fly under the radar as it is, we don't see them in meetings.

Dean Levy: I think we have to realize that amnesty in the eyes of administrators is different in the eyes of students. There are other things we need to discuss such as the cost of it and so on.