

## ALCOHOL PRIORITY GROUP MEETING

February 8, 2008

1:00-2:30

**Attending:** Carol Seager, Heidi Garcia, Jenny McKee, Jay Vaglio, Michelle Smith, Chris Stoppel, Diana Robertson, Wendy Rohleder—Sook, Bill Larzalere, John Wade, Kara Boston, Schuyler Bailey, Leslie Rhoton, Mindy Rendon, Chris Dyba

**Guest Panel:** Diana thanked the students for participating in the meeting. The students on the panel were recommended to participate by an advisor or supervisor to explore the topic of alcohol and its culture on campus. Diana then asked the Alcohol Priority Group members to introduce themselves.

The panel then introduced themselves and they are as follows:

Katie Morgan, School of Law

Lauren Tullis, Resident Assistant, Lewis Hall

Stephanie Patyk, President, Student Union Activities

Hannah Love, Student Body President

Meghan Watson, V.P. for Risk Management, Panhellenic Association

J.J. Siler had been asked to participate but was unable to attend.

Diana explained the purpose of the priority group and the work of our sub-groups. She asked the students to respond to the following questions:

There are 4 sub-groups who have taken a look at what the current policies and practices on this campus, what are some of the best practices that are happening on a national level, and what is in the literature, what does the literature say in terms of guiding us for programmatic development. We are in the information gathering stage which is why we wanted to make sure we were hearing from the student panel early on in our stages. We listened to and interacted with a physician from Lawrence Memorial Hospital at our last meeting to get a perspective from that lens of the impact of alcohol. We wanted to explore further student perception, and from here, we will have several more speakers come in at the beginning of future meetings.

### **Question #1:**

How would you describe the campus culture as it relates to alcohol?

On what do you base this description?

### **Responses:**

•Drinking is very prevalent, large numbers drink, more so than thought, shocked by numbers of people drinking, did not realize it was so common

- There is a large number of students who do not drink. Hawk Nights are a late-night alternative to drinking sponsored by SUA. Approximately 150 people showed up for the event on a campus of 25,000-discerning that so many people are unaware of alternatives.

- Drinking is not only culturally acceptable, it is expected.

- Drinking is part of the college experience, but there is so much more.

- There are other ways to get involved and students do not have to drink if they don't want to.

- From the law school standpoint, which is different from undergrads since the majority of law students are over 21, most student-sponsored events revolve around alcohol and take place at bars.

  - \*Keg at the Wheel, a welcome back student-sponsored event flier

  - \*every Thursday night there is a bar night.

At any student event there is a perception if you do not have alcohol at the event or you do not have it at a bar, no one will come which is a misperception because there are several students who do not drink

- advertising is a culprit

- being "wasted" is expected

- do not know how to drink responsibly

- Perception of alcohol brought to school with students depending on what was taught at home, causing some student who have not been exposed/taught about alcohol to drink too much

Schuyler Bailey asked the student panel if they brought their drinking habits to school with them. Were they drinking before or did they start drinking after arriving at KU, and if so, how much.

- did not drink before coming to school, does now but not very often

- did drink on occasion and still does, but it has not changed as a result of coming to school

- Alcohol is easier to access once you get to college.

Carol Seager asked the panel two questions, directing the first question to Stephanie but not limiting it to her. The Journal World newspaper recently stated the bar owners downtown are asking for a change in their licensure so they can actually serve beer outside of their establishment, not limited to inside the building but actually being able to serve it outside. This may cause concern in regards to underage drinking and making it more readily available. If there is this kind of movement to allow the vendors downtown to move outside with their service, do you think that would impact student behaviors.

- It would make alcohol even easier to get.

- There are more families and smaller kids on Mass St., some students tend to get out-of-hand, so it is a bad idea.

- It would be a continuation of the bar itself. People will not be walking around with it. They would be in the general area.

- more people watching, paying attention
  - \*Boulder, Colorado, was pointed out to have a very developed downtown, and it was okay to serve outside on patio and was never an issue.

Carol then asked the student panel what students are thinking when they are binge drinking. Are they unaware of the impact of alcohol and therefore they keep going until it is too late or do you get the sense they are drinking a lot intentionally in order to get the result of the alcohol. In other words, are they intentionally getting drunk or they are accidentally getting drunk?

- In some cases people are accidentally getting drunk. If they do not have a strong alcohol tolerance they will not know what they are or are not drinking and it will hit them all of a sudden.
- most of the time it is definitely intentional

Chris Stoppel asked, “What is your definition of binge drinking?” (i.e. number, style)

- drinking 3 or 4 drinks in a very short amount of time
- someone going out with the intention of “I do not want to remember this night, I do not want to remember anything that happened.”
- If you cannot stand up and your wobbly, your “good”.
- drinking with the intent to get drunk, drinking excessively several nights in a row
- when they cannot remember what they did

Diana Robertson asked as a follow-up question to the late-night activities comment—Are there enough of these types of events to be an alternative to drinking.

•SUA used to receive a grant from the City of Lawrence and for that they had to have a minimum of 300 students and they had one event per month. SUA no longer has the grant. The city reallocated the money to different places. SUA is trying to set up other events but Stephanie stressed it costs money to hold school-sponsored events to be able to get students away from drinking.

\*K-State programming board has an event set up every Friday or Saturday night in which hundreds of students attend. They have built the program for 10+ years so that every Friday or Saturday night students have an event to attend if want to. KU is not at that level yet.

•It depends if there is an event a student actually wants to go to. If there is an event which sounds interesting they will prioritize. There are a lot of activities in residence halls on a regular basis and there is good turn-out. If it is something people want to do, they will. A lot of people like SUA

movie nights or playing games. There have been some video game tournaments.

- is not a lack of programs available. It all goes back to the perception of “this is how you’re supposed to be in college. This is how college students act.” This perception has been constructed by the media, older siblings, and different people. People do not think or know differently. It is just part of the college culture. You need a culture shift. People need to think this is not what college is about, this is not the way it is supposed to be. Friends have stated other schools do not drink as much as KU does. It is not normal and normal college life is not like this, yet drinking at KU continues to be an issue.

### **Question#2:**

Are there ways that the University could be more effective in shaping or managing the culture?

### **Responses:**

- It is hard to change every single person because of the number of people on the KU campus. Start with small groups but you would have to try to expand it. It would be difficult and it would take a long time to make that change.
- Integrate activities into culture; therefore making other students think it is okay to go to these events/activities. “It sounds really fun, maybe I will go.”
- Publicize more surveys taken regarding drinking on campus. It will get students talking. Don’t focus on total abstinence but focus on moderate drinking or healthy drinking for both underage as well as drinkers over 21. Do surveys and publish results with concrete evidence of what people do and don’t because the peer pressure is ridiculous.
- Part of the Hawk Nights grant requires a survey asking various questions about what student would be doing if they were not attending a Hawk Nights. Stephanie stated SUA has several surveys on file, and she will get surveys to Diana Robertson to review.

Chris Stoppel asked Katie Morgan to compare KU to other schools she has attended as she has attended the University of Vermont and Colorado State.

- Downtown areas draw a lot of students, lots of fun. They did a really good job of having late night programs which sounds like SUA does similar things. One thing is to draw downtown culture onto campus for late nights. Have performers come on campus who are known for going to local bars so people who would go to a bar would go to campus instead. Katie also suggested changing students’ perception of organized events.

**Question#3:**

What changes/suggestions do you have with regard to alcohol-related issues?

Carol stated some conversations are happening about would it help to address some of the excessive alcohol use if there were more Friday classes. They are looking at the weekend starting on Thursday night scenario, increasing the opportunity for there to be more down time. If there were more Friday classes, how do you think that would impact, if at all, on alcohol use?

**Responses:**

- Business School does not have classes on Friday because a lot of students do an internship on Fridays.
- maybe move programming/events/activities to Thursday nights, not always Friday or alternate between the two
- 75% of friends go out on Friday, maybe 15-25% go out on Thursday. It is a fun night that people do occasionally but not a huge occurrence. It is not as big as Friday and Saturday. Most people who go out on Thursday are people who do not have classes on Friday.
- Some people drink more if they do not have an afternoon class, so schedule Friday afternoon classes.

Diana asked the panel about tailgating and other institutionally-sanctioned events. Do they influence students?

- definitely tailgating does

Schuyler Bailey asked, “If you hear the word tailgating, do you automatically associate alcohol with it?”

- I think they have been doing a better job over the last couple of years of cracking down on it, several friends have gotten ticketed for drinking underage on the hill
- Tailgating at Templin was held for the first time this year. Housing bought a lot of food and drinks. A lot of people enjoyed it. It was an alternative to drinking and tailgating.
- SUA had a tailgating event as well in association with other groups, almost 700 students came through. Students were not allowed to come in if they had been drinking. There were prizes and food (i.e. pop, chips, hot dogs). It was the first time SUA had done it and it was successful.

Heidi Garcia asked if students are helping each other in terms of designated drivers, cutting others off from alcohol, are students getting home safely. What are peers doing to help their friends who are binge drinking?

- had to take keys from friends. Friends are also using Safe Ride and Safe Bus. Brothers Against Drunk Driving and Sisters Against Drunk Driving are organizations that provide help.
- hard to cut people off, ignored 90% of the time.
- no excuses in Lawrence to drink and drive because of services, (i.e. Safe Buses go to all major apartment complexes, people using Safe Ride)

Diana addressed three students on the panel who are in roles of leadership. What in that role has been frustrating or what would help enforce rules? “If only I had.....”

- suggested more stringent polices if caught in the dorm
- If SUA volunteers or participants are intoxicated or “high”, they cannot participate in any events.
- Enforce more security, identifying people who are 21. Social events are monitored well.
- Drinking is a deviant behavior. There should be more rules. Change the perception of alcohol being cool. Also make not drinking cool.

Chris Stoppel asked, “What is KU’s stance?”

- KU is a dry campus.
- a lot of liquor, bars available
- college town equals drinking
- 250 campus events serve alcohol, so technically KU not a dry campus
- drinking in high school leads to drinking at college
  - \*Heidi Garcia stated most kids take their first drink at 13.

Schuyler Bailey asked Stephanie if she felt students were leaving Hawk Nights and going out after the events ended at 1:00.

Carol Seager asked what is open on campus on weekends.

- Kansas Union until 1:00 a.m.
  - Recreation Center closes at 10:00 p.m.
- There are limited activity/options on weekends, not much open.

John Wade asked, “How do you change perception of alcohol as being fun?”

- some students are told about their behavior while drunk, some stop drinking after learning this, others do not
- some students perceive drinking as not fun—not ostracized for not drinking
- drinking individualized

- play clips of results of drinking, highlighting consequences of alcoholism, many younger students do not grasp consequences of drinking
- Bring in speaker such as Mark Sterner who was involved in an alcohol-related accident in which several friends were killed on spring break and he went to jail. Kara Boston shared this speaker has made a big difference within the Athletics department. All incoming freshman attend his presentation.

Carol Seager stated part of what the group is thinking about is can they do something to target incoming freshman such as focused messages, programming, and resources because the KU community is so large and the broader and more generic you make the message it is often less effective. There has been some thought and discussion of trying to concentrate some efforts and resources on incoming freshman, thinking that over time it would have an impact on the overall culture and community. Is this a window of opportunity?

- too late for incoming freshman, ideas and ideals about drinking established coming into school
- middle school is when people are educated and make up their minds about it
- best opportunity is freshman, after that it is lost
- integrate as part of New Student Orientation
- make PRE101 class mandatory
- During student's first year is a great time to set up expectations at a time when they are looking at peer groups, "What is it going to be like?, What is it supposed to be like in college?, confirms college time to drink or dispels idea of drinking as part of college life
  - \*University of Vermont works with late-night programming board during orientation to have events/programs for students
- New Student Orientation good idea
- have an alternative for parents during orientation so student can go out and see what is out there to do to meet other students without leaving parents alone

Diana Robertson thanked the panel for participating and asked them to please forward any information which may come to mind in the future. Diana asked the committee if they wanted to discuss further information from the student panel.

Redefining what party means in terms of you can have a party without having alcohol. Carol Seager suggested promoting tailgating without alcohol. Tailgating with alcohol on campus is very large, so highlighting areas where students can tailgate without alcohol and not be infringed upon by others who are tailgating. Three or four years ago the student tailgating section was right next to the stadium. They took it away from

the students and put it on the outskirts. Now the students are tailgating across the street, which is off campus. How do you bring them back on campus? Plus, companies like Budweiser and Boulevard to have the most prominent tailgating positions on the hill. Students are going to attend and be drawn because of the free beer. There are many people such as alumni coming to games and tailgating, and so it is not only students who are consuming alcohol during tailgating. There is a prevailing attitude that this is part of college and how it is when you go to college. How do you change the culture of the alumni?

KU is a confused campus as far as a “dry campus”. There is a misconception of KU as a dry campus when students/parents come to campus and see the alcohol tents and massive amount of drinking during football games. KU needs to define its stance on alcohol so students have a clear understanding of what is allowed and what is not. A lot of mixed messages are going back and forth everywhere. It is hard to enforce “dry campus”.

### **Reports from Sub-committees:**

- Review of current policies at KU, Schuyler Bailey:  
Schuyler presented a handout to the committee.

Carol asked where does the alcohol policy originate. There is no clear answer. The lawyer said it came from the Provost office, and the Provost Office said it came from General Counsel. With the help of the General Counsel’s office, Schuyler referred to Kansas Statute 41-719 C, (refer to handout). Schuyler then discussed some of the obstacles in regards to enforcing the law. He stated the State gives authority to the Board of Regents who in turn gives the authority to the individual campuses. There are several city ordinances the KUPD enforce. The biggest one is the MIP (refer to handout). Hosting minors (refer to handout) is a fairly new statute. It is aimed at the neighborhoods north of the stadium. They are trying to educate people who are providing the service to understand they are hosting a party in which they are responsible for the minors standing around the keg. It is a fairly new statute, so will have to see how far it goes.

Diana Robertson asked if the officers issued MIPs during games.

The Lawrence Police Department wanders through the areas issuing MIPs to these individuals. At least two games a year there is assistance from Alcohol Beverage Control. They usually come in for big games such as Missouri and K-State.

Carol Seager asked Schuyler to define what hosting a minor meant. The individual must have either given to them or allowed them to take from a keg. Lawrence does not have an open drink law yet, but it is getting closer.

It is illegal to furnish alcohol to a minor. One exception is that a parent is allowed to give their child beer in public as long as their child is in the immediate area of the parent.

Schuyler reviewed the KU Alcohol and Drug Policy pamphlet after handing out copies to the group. The pamphlet gets mailed out to all faculty and staff. The KUPD uses this in their programs. Policies are located in several places, for example in the Student Athlete Handbook.

The university cannot sell alcohol. It does not have a license. KU Dining cannot dispense it for sale, but they can provide it. There is no money exchanging hands between the tents on campus during football games.

Schuyler also reviewed alcohol-approved areas on campus and the practice of donor lots on and near campus.

Kara Boston read an example from the student athlete handbook regarding the policy on alcohol as determined by the department and coaches. There is also a list of bars athletes are discouraged from visiting.

- Review of current practices and programs at KU, Heidi Garcia:  
Heidi presented a handout to the committee.

Much of Heidi's presentation was taken from the handout. She did state the alcohol sanctions information does not go into the student's file, and Jane Tuttle shared with her there is no place in the student's file for alcohol-related incidents.

Heidi stated that Student Health Services and the Wellness Resource Center work with Housing on the Alcohol Sanctions Program.

Kara Boston is collecting UDKs and information regarding the amount of alcohol-related advertising per week.

- Distribution of report from the "Review of practices and programs at peer institutions" group, Chris Stoppel:  
Chris will give his presentation at the next meeting on February 22.

Diana Robertson has asked that Phil Bradley from the Kansas Licensed Beverage Association be invited to speak at the meeting on February 22. Mary Anne will contact Mr. Bradley.

Carol presented a worksheet to the group which will be used to summarize the information that has been collected. Carol asked the group for suggestions about the worksheet and none were given at the time. The four sub-committees will combine into two groups with one group looking at KU information and the other group looking at information gathered externally. The two groups will then compare the information to come up with final recommendations. One of the upcoming APG meetings may be used as a working meeting.