

**Alcohol and Other Drug Task Force
End of Year Report
July 2008**

I. Charge of Task force and progress to date:

The AOD task force was convened in January of 2007 by Vice President John King. Phase one of the charges was to review campus specific data, to review best practices, and to assess second hand effects. Phase two charged us to make recommendations on alcohol policies and sanctions by the end of the spring semester 2007, which was done May 2007 in a report on recommendations. Those recommendations were adopted and put into practice for F 07. Phase three was to develop comprehensive educational and prevention initiatives. The task force met regularly throughout the 07-08 academic year to develop and refine the Environmental Management Strategies plan (see attached in appendices). The following is a summary of work accomplished this year towards completing the environmental management strategies plan and a look towards future work to be done.

II. Membership: Kathleen McMahon (co-chair), Jim Azar (co-chair), Seann Kalagher, Donna Lynn Darmody, Tamara Von George, Patrick Tanner, Bo Zarycky, Jill Easttey, Mary Beth Fecteau, Chuck Stanley, the Director of Public Safety, and students Rachel Clark, Dan Percopo, and Mike McClellan.

III. Progress of Environmental Strategies (see Appendix C)

A. Policy Review

In December 2007 the task force reviewed the new sanctions that were put in place for fall 2007 to assess effectiveness and changes in data. It was believed that the change in sanctioning had had a positive impact over all. It was also determined that the 2 week removal for the quantity policy was too harsh (students overwhelmingly felt it was inequitable with other sanctions, ie. marijuana 1 week removal) and we changed the sanction to a 1 week removal. Everything else has stayed in place.

B. Data Assessment

The task force reviewed available data in the fall 2007 (spring 07 ACUHO alcohol data) and then again in the summer 2008 (Core 08 and ACUHO 08). We also reviewed student conduct alcohol statistics every semester. We found a positive change in the decrease in second hand effects from 06 to 07 and to 08 (ACUHO, question 88, Appendix E).

From the student conduct data (see Appendix B) we gleaned that there was a decrease in transports in 08 (down from 32 in 07 to 29 in 08). We also saw a decrease in the total number of students documented for alcohol violations and the number found responsible. The number of students found responsible for drug violations has had no change, with data almost consistent to last year. Lastly we are pleased that the number of students

found responsible for incivility (conduct code 16) went down almost 50% (117 in 07 to 60 in 08).

The Health Education Office implemented the Core survey in spring 2008. We were able to compare 2006 to 2008 data and found the following results (see Appendix D):

- There was no change in actual and perceived frequencies with which students reported using alcohol.
- The perceived and actual alcohol consumption (# drinks per sitting) increased among all categories except athletes where there were decreases.
- The perceived perception of abstainers rose while the actual percentage of abstainers decreased.

There was telling data on the link with alcohol use and the academic environment. On the question that asked, “What contributes most to the drinking culture on this campus?” the second highest response with 26% was “free time or boredom” (see appendix A). We also learned in a question about negative consequences of alcohol use that our incoming class experiences lower degrees of negative academic consequences (20%) than the national aggregate (32%) (AlcoholEdu, see appendix A and E). One of our goals for next year is to bridge the gap to the academic community and have meetings with deans and faculty to discuss the alcohol data and collaborate on environmental prevention strategies.

C. Student Leader Training

We started the year off with a student leader workshop at Leadership University in August 2007 to discuss alcohol use/abuse and norms and what students can do to create change. The goal was to engage our student leaders in developing strategies to change the climate about alcohol use/abuse on campus. There was also a session in RA training in August 07 that discussed our new policies on alcohol sanctions and educated RA's on alcohol prevention strategies (this will occur in 08 as well). The AOD task force spoke to both the Admissions counselors and tour guides and the Orientation Advisors in both the summer of 07 and 08 to discuss alcohol messaging and engaged the student leaders in being part of the culture change at RWU.

D. Education and Reinforcement of Positive Behavior

This year we are in our third year of mandating the online alcohol primary prevention program AlcoholEdu for all incoming freshman and transfer students. The survey feedback on learning outcomes of AlcoholEdu continues to be positive with 89% of the students stating they learned valuable information and 92% stating the course helped prepare them for preventing an alcohol overdoes. In 2007 we reinstated having all incoming students attend a mandatory alcohol speaker during WOW. In 2007 we had Jim Mathews and this fall we will have Bernie McGrenahan. This year we engaged students to do research and recommend who they believed would be a dynamic speaker so we are hopeful that our choice this year with Bernie McGrenahan will be a positive one. The HAWE's did a session for all First Year Seminar classes on the risks of high risk drinking and engaged the students in a peer to peer discussion on the college effect and making good choices.

In the fall 07 the task force took steps to educate the entire student body on the new alcohol sanctions:

- We had flyers on quantity policy distributed at move-in;
- The new policies were discussed at all floor meetings;
- John King sent a letter to all students articulating the changes;
- Over the summer the student conduct office sent letters to students who were on their 2nd alcohol violation reminding them about the consequences of a 3rd violation;
- The Health Education Office did education on procurement laws – both state and RWU policy
- The AOD task force put an advertisement in the Hawks Herald on the new quantity policy

The Housing and Residence Life Department is working to institute a merit lottery system beginning fall 08 for the incoming freshman class only. This is meant to reward positive behavior (attendance at co-curricular events, lectures etc.) and not reinforce negative behavior by students getting demerits for student conduct violations. Each subsequent year the incoming class will be part of the merit lottery system until all residential students are participating in it. This effort is a collaboration of the Department of Residence Life and Housing, the Student Conduct Office, Student Programs and Leadership, and academic affairs. Lastly, in all of the AOD task forces education efforts and trainings we have relayed a message about the importance of social responsibility and students taking charge of their choices and behavior. This move is to include the educational aspect, in addition to the punitive consequences that result from violations.

At Orientation this year the dean of students focused on AOD and civility in her session with parents and students. The Guide to Alcohol brochures were distributed to student and parent during this session. The Health Education Director spoke to parents and students also about how alcohol plays a part in transitioning to college and introduced AlcoholEdu. These sessions, along with the student conduct session that followed, focused on our expectations and communication between students and parents on these issues.

This year the AOD task force looked at ways to reduce high risk drinking on Chameleon Club nights. We implemented several new strategies that we hope will be continued next fall including:

- A procedure to deny intoxicated students entrance to the event and a follow up mechanism after they returned to the residence halls;
- Developed ways to deter students from having open containers on campus and procedures for documenting this behavior (i.e. students found with open containers received letters from student conduct; Bayside residents were notified ahead of time about the enforcement of this policy in a newsletter);
- CEN/HAWE's collaboratively held floor meetings regarding peer expectations at Cham club.

One new priority this year was to find more ways to outreach to the community on the work of the AOD task force. In particular, we wanted to raise awareness of the efforts to impact climate change. The Dean of Students in her role as co-chair of the AOD task force contributed an article for the Student Affairs Winter newsletter. The piece explained the environmental management strategies that RWU is engaged in and how we follow best practices in the field. Our goal was to reach parents and engage them in our latest efforts. The Director of Health Education also wrote a piece in the Student Affairs fall newsletter to help parents adjust to the transition of students coming home over holiday breaks. Lastly, we met with Public Affairs to discuss AOD messaging, with the intent to find ways to change the climate by changing expectations and messages sent through admissions materials and others on AOD issues. We will continue to explore novel ways to educate the external community regarding our AOD philosophy and strategies in the future.

One major aspect of the Environmental Management approach is to work with external parties and relationships, since clearly alcohol issues do not occur in a vacuum on our college campus. The Health Education Director was appointed the State Coordinator for Network RI, a group that works to centralize prevention strategies. She also attended both Bristol and Portsmouth Substance Abuse Task Force meetings. We began collaborating with town council, as part of the town gown group that VP Wilbur established. One of our members also attended a local symposium on under age drinking in Providence. A few of our Residence Life and Health Education staff went through TIPS training certification, which now means we can offer trainings on campus for local bar owners and for our own professional and student staff.

The Task Force stayed current on best practices in a few ways. The entire task force participated in a teleconference in November 2007 held by MIT entitled "Substance Abuse Prevention on Campus: Programs and Policies That Work." The dean of students attended the NASPA Alcohol Prevention Summit in January 2008. And, the task force participated in an AlcoholEdu teleconference that focused on the new course and research results.

IV. Future Work

Given that the task force has accomplished most of its charge over the past 18 months, we felt that a change in our format was warranted considering the future topic issues we wanted to explore. We decided to break into subcommittees in fall 2008 and meet twice during the semester to share progress and review data. The following are the new tasks that were identified:

1. Cedar vestibule- access issues (Residence Life and Public Safety)
2. External Relations (Health Education and Public Safety)
 - a. Fake ID training
 - b. Off campus issues
 - c. Attend AOD substance abuse committee meetings

3. Assess Good Neighbor Policy – (Student Conduct, Housing and Public Safety)
 - a. Work with housing on registration of off campus students
4. Plan event for freshman for 1st chameleon club in September – reduce binge drinking (CEN, HAWE's, Dean of Students, Residence Life)
5. Bridge gap to academic community (Health Education and Counseling)
 - a. Meeting with dean's
 - b. Request invite to school staff meetings
 - c. Develop presentation on Alcohol Use at RWU

Appendices

- A) Highlights from data
- B) Student conduct data 06/07 to 07/08 Comparisons
- C) Core comparison data
- D) ACUHO Data 06, 07, 08
- E) AlcoholEdu 06 to 07 comparison
- F) Environmental Strategies Grid

Appendix A

Highlights from data

Core Survey – 06 to 08 comparison

- There exists no major demographic differences
- There was no change in actual and perceived frequencies with which students reported using alcohol.
- Perceived and actual alcohol consumption (# drinks per sitting) increased among all categories except athletes where there were decreases.
- The perceived perception of abstainers rose while the actual percentage of abstainers decreased.
- There was no change in the perception or use of marijuana except for athletes' perception of median going from 1-2x a month to 1-2x a year.
- There was no change in student attitudes toward alcohol, marijuana and illicit drug use.

Academic relevant data

ACUHO question

What contributes most to the drinking culture on this campus

- 1) Reputation 6%
- 2) easy access to alcohol 13%
- 3) academic stress of work load 21%
- 4) free time or boredom 26%
- 5) social/peer expectations 28%
- 6) lack of significant consequences 5%

AlcoholEdu question

Negative consequences: During the past two weeks...

(first answer is national aggregate/second is RWU)

Drive after or while drinking?	16/16
Black out	33/35
Have a hangover	38/38
Experience negative academic consequences	32/20

Appendix B

AOD Student Conduct Data 06/07 to 07/08 Comparisons

	2006-2007	2007-2008
Alcohol Documentations	1248	1148
Alcohol – Responsible	721 (57.7%)	598 (52.1%)
Drug Documentations	136	111
Drug – Responsible	59 (43.4%)	59 (53.2%)
Sanctions		
AIRs	352	210
CODAC	3	5
One-on-Ones	217	188
Dry Spaces	n/a	25
Marijuana 101	n/a	17
Alcohol Edu	n/a	15
AOD-related semester removals	23	17
SDA Transports	32	29
CC #16 - Responsible	731	560
Incivility/CC #5 – Responsible	117	60