

November 8, 2011

1. Call to order-- 7:05

2. Introduction

- Discussion led by Nancy Thompson, Dean of Students, and Knute Gailor, Student Assembly President
- Introduction of Alcohol Coalition (Knute Gailor)
 - group of administrators and student representatives from Residential Life, Greek Life, and Student Assembly
 - discusses ways to reduce the destructive and dangerous behaviors resulting from alcohol use
- Introduction to meeting (Nancy Thompson)
 - How can we reduce dangerous and destructive behavior
 - realizes that general student body may not be aware of the frequency of serious problems
 - increased enforcement has shown to be the most effective manner in addressing problems, but increased awareness and partnership between students and administration may lead to a better solution
 - beginning of a conversation, not an end
 - goals for Hamilton education: great education with safety, respect, and fun
 - every weekend there is destruction on campus, students needing medical attention
 - problem not underage drinking, problem is drinking irresponsibly
 - kicking in doors, breaking windows, breaking Jitney windows
 - 43 students have been EMT'd to date this year, up from 35 in 2010 and 20 in 2009 for the same period
 - More disturbing is that 13 students have been found passed out, alone on campus, in need of help
 - It is important for students to call EMTs if a student needs help, there is no punishment for that-- want to fix the cause, why students reach that point

3. Student Comments

- Banning alcohol and creating too strict policies will not work and will be force the drinking culture more underground
 - drinking is already underground and forcing it there more will only create a more dangerous situation
 - hard alcohol policy is not working; it causes many students to drink excessively in a short amount of time
 - Need to help students drink safely: Baltimore used to have a heroin problem, the city created a system that allowed people to exchange dirty needles for clean needles, city became much safer
- Why more EMT calls?
 - It is more publicized, and students realize how easy it is to call
 - Possibly because of crack down, students drink more, nothing we can do to fix that
 - possibly because scary film shown at freshman orientation
- Personal responsibility
 - Need to fix culture of drinking; blacking out or passing out is not funny but can be very dangerous
 - Students committing destructive behavior need to realize that they are hurting people
 - upperclassmen need to set a better example for freshmen
 - Realize that this behavior is not ok and change needs to come from students
 - More effective to have upperclassmen talk to students about safe drinking, not administration
 - Cannot blame all bad behavior on drinking, people need to take personal responsibility
 - Need a workshop for students and head of organizations to learn how to encourage safe drinking among their peers and stop friends from drinking dangerously
 - Hamilton's reputation will affect us in the future

- Head of BLSU-- nearly all racist incidents have involved alcohol
- Need to differentiate between safe and unsafe drinking behavior
 - need more critical approach, students get in the same amount of trouble if they are drinking one beer with a group of people or if they are drinking dangerously and belligerently
 - need to encourage safe drinking and discourage dangerous behavior
 - Many medium sized parties, serving only beer, are broken up due to noise; this causes many students to drink hard alcohol in smaller groups
 - Crackdown on hard alcohol is good but these medium-sized parties that are not a problem should not be broken up
 - Why can't kegs be in dorms-- would decrease hard alcohol use
- Hamilton is different from other schools
 - feel that there is more accountability here, worried that a strong change would reduce this safe feeling
 - Students have friends at other schools who have died from drinking, we should not reach that point and need to realize the gravity
 - School-sponsored events are very important
 - these events are not the places where students become dangerously drunk and increased crack down will only increase the underground drinking culture
 - Need to have medium-sized social spaces that offer students the ability to drink safely and be able to talk and socialize-- most people go to all campus parties already drunk because of the environment
 - TIP training is not effective, need older students to teach students, not administration
 - Need many more events without alcohol sponsored by the administration

4. Conclusion

- This is the beginning of the conversation, not the end
- Promise that this will be discussed with the students before major changes are enacted
- Thank you to our EMTs

5. Next steps

- Notes from meeting will be sent to community
- Additional information and ideas will be gathered between now and the end of the semester
- Plan to meet again on Saturday, January 21 to focus on best ideas and develop plans to implement them