



## OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

### Students' Association Fireside Chat

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Topics Discussed

#### Academic Advising

- It seems that academic advising is lacking in the sophomore year.

#### Alcohol Policy, Event Registration, Student Code of Conduct

- Junior student wants to know why campus social life has changed so much. She has never thought such negative thoughts about the school as she does now. She clarifies – she would like to talk about the strictness of bar parties – will those new restrictions change? What is true about the new alcohol policies and what is not? The rumor-mill is absurd; The administration needs to communicate or people will start getting very angry.
  - Response: the policies are not really new but they are being enforced better.
- Student planned bar party on the previous evening. The administration cannot say 'abide by these rules' and then make student groups pay for them. They had to pay security three hundred dollars. Group felt like the problems were really financial. If more security is required, why should the group have to pay for it?
- Another student mentions that she feels the lack of security is the major issue. Alcohol should be less of a concern than security. There is still not enough security. We should not have to pay for extra security if it is already needed!
- Senior student does not feel insecure. But she feels if the administration is forcing the security, we should not have to pay for it. She does not think there is a lack of security. She thinks it might just be an excuse.
- Student: where is Morgan Levy?
  - Response: we requested that no administrators were here. We've requested an email and a town hall meeting.
    - Student reply: email is not enough, the Town Hall meeting is required.
- Senior student – concerned about security. Her organization wants to have a bar party. She will abide by bar party rules, including that nobody can board the bus past midnight. If security is to be paid for, why do students need to stand there with them? Either we're responsible for it or security is.
- Senior student's understanding is that there are only three parties allowed on the fraternity quad per night, but she doesn't understand why the fourth has to pay for security. Security should be provided.
- There is a problem of overcrowding in just three houses. What if everyone goes to one party? They're already crowded enough. We can't do joint mixers either because of overcrowding.
- Another change is that there needs to be substantial food at the parties on the FQ. Will there be any sanitation requirements for this food? Hairnets? Seems ambiguous.

- Response: the only thing that has changed in the policy is that it's substantial food instead of chips and dip. They now recommend non-salty foods. The sanitary food question is good. Does FQ now have to pay for food permits, etc?
- How do we expect risk managers to deal with the influx of individuals in the houses?
  - Response: In theory, houses should not let in enough people for that to become a problem.
- Sophomore Student – new restrictions on FQ parties, she feels that it will encourage people to go off campus to houses, etc. She feels it's dangerous considering the surrounding areas. How many people need to get mugged and drunk driving? Wouldn't you rather them on campus? **(applause)**
- With all the new policies, it will encourage binge drinking in dorms. At registered parties, drinks are monitored. That's not so in private dorms. By encouraging people to leave campus, it makes our school more dangerous. **(applause)**
- Student asks if Drama House and CLC are included. Yes. There could be one Frat and Drama and CLC? A lot of these rule seem subjective. What is what's going to stop security from picking the five youngest people at the party to card? What about the security checking food?
  - Response: Points taken: Restrictions might limit to only one fraternity per night. Restrictions also make it so that oversight over security is lacking. Security should be at the town hall meeting to hear from the ODOS and students.
- At the bar party last night, tickets were checked at the door. But bar could not regulate who was coming in. Local people were allowed in. Why couldn't UR students come in? Seems unfair. Also, there was a guest list. She is concerned. What's the difference between the people on the list and the people not on the list? What's the difference? How is the group any more or less responsible for those individuals?
  - R: Truth is: the bar in those situations is supposed to be closed. You should not be responsible for the local people. Are you referring to the up to the 300 person limit? They said 300 people could sign up. Only 150 got tickets. There was more space, so why couldn't more come? We can't explain what the difference was between those on the list? How can you say that you have to take this shuttle, you cannot take the cab? It's personal preference.
- If the University cannot control things, how do they expect students to do it? If you can't control students, how can you get us in trouble for not being able to do it? **(applause)**
- The administration is expecting every group on campus to fight over being able to have parties. They're encouraging competition. It will pit groups against each other! **(applause)**
- What was the cause of these restrictions? If it wasn't broken, why did we try to fix it?
  - Response: The UR's policy is harm reduction based. He thinks part of what is happening is that some of the policies on the books were not being enforced.
- Student does not have a definitive reason as to why policies were changed. A lot of us want to point fingers at Dean Levy. Should we?
  - R: Not directly, for a few reasons. (1) A lot of these changes were in the works even before she was hired. (2) It was a group of people who made these policies together. There were a group of people that had to approve these. This policy went through the same process as any University decision. We're used to a particular style and now we're unfamiliar with Dean Levy. He can certainly say that these policies are not attributable to Dean Levy or any one person.
- She knows that many people are in Greek. If there are two Mixers going on, then what is everyone else going to do?

- Response: The resounding message is that everyone is not happy with this. She wants to encourage the free flow of this communication.
- Student wants to know how this will affect admissions and transfer rates?
- What is the incentive of joining a Greek organization if the social life is now suffering?
- Question Posed to Audience: Do people actually feel that the quality of social life is worse than in the past? **(loud applause)**
- Student does not know why the UR is taking away the freedom of our social lives. We can do whatever we want, but when it comes to social life, why do we have no freedoms? It goes against the core values of this institution. **(applause)**
- Senior Student: What are efforts are you making to engage different councils including FPC and Panhell in the alcohol policy discussion?

## Event Support/Room Reservations

- Event Support costs an entire budget. It would be nice to cut us a break when we're throwing events for the whole community. We paid 500 dollars for microphones, a tent, speakers, and a table.
  - Response: If you feel that the rates are too high, we can find out information about it.
- Student says that event support charges 20 dollars for a desk out of order. But when event support is late, nothing happens. Is there any way to get a discount when event support is late? When we're late, we're charged. When they're late, nothing happens! **(loud applause)**
- When we try to get rooms, we have a lot of trouble.
  - Response: Crowding is a result of many groups on campus.

## Transportation

- There is no Saturday or Sunday during the day shuttles. Evening shuttles on the weekend are for safety. Weekday shuttles are for classes. If admin wants to support social life, they need to provide transportation. A lot of the things on the weekend are academic – study groups, etc.
- They want us to be well-rounded. If there are no ways to get around on weekends it discourages us from getting involved.
  - Response: Is there a specific request? Noon to five? **Yes.**
- For the weekend busses, there needs to be times for the busses to come to get meals. He lived in Southside, and it's so hard to get food when it is cold and snowy at 9pm.

## UHS/Campus Health

- Junior Student – UHS. She was very sick the other week. The only appt she could get was three days later at the med center. With H1N1 and the regular flu, how are we supposed to keep people healthy if we can't get appointments for people?
  - Response: Even when you can't get an appointment, everyone should have the right to talk to an RN over the phone right then and there. Do not hesitate to call especially if you have pronounced symptoms.

## Dining Services

- Student has noticed that paninis take 20 minutes. Considering there is no pizza to go, it is far too long. That includes in the middle of the afternoon.
- Can we get the sushi from last year back?

- Vegan student points out that at Danforth – cereal and no soy milk. There is a salad bar. There is one station in Douglass. A lot of the time there is no soy milk. But she should not have to eat cereal for dinner.
- Since they decided to move the sushi out, what are they doing with the space. They added pasta to the Pit.
- Student really enjoyed the omelets last year at Hillside. There is nothing on campus where you can get a healthy breakfast.
- People who just have declining – it's ten dollars declining to get an omelet at Danforth.
- Why is there nothing 24 hours? If students need food at three in the morning, have something open!
  - Response: Focus group will work with dining on getting more 24 hours options.

## UR Wireless

- Student – what about wireless internet in the dorms. This year we added wireless in Douglass. Wireless is more expensive than students realize – tens of thousands of dollars. We proposed last year. We took away the ability for them to say we don't know what you want. If you disagree, let us know. We can amend that report.
- If we don't get wireless in towers, why can't we have routers.
  - Response: Personal routers – if everyone has one. They would all clash. We proposed allowing routers. If someone is logged into your router and they download something illegally, you are responsible.