Revising Alcohol Policy to Clarify Limits on the Size of Liquor and Beer Containers

Senate Resolution No. 33

SUBMITTED BY: Adam Rosenkranz '17, Senator
               David Stark '16, Senator

CO-SPONSORS: Brinkley Meyers '18, Legislative Advisor

ENDORSED BY: The Senate Campus Services Committee

WHEREAS the University of Rochester’s “Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy” currently prohibits student possession of “common containers” on campus in order to reduce the rapid distribution and consumption of alcohol; and,

WHEREAS the current policy defines a prohibited “common container” as any container that exceeds 40 ounces of beer, 5 liters of wine, or 1 liter of distilled spirits; and,

WHEREAS many students purchase 1.75 liter containers (“handles”) of distilled spirits, which are often priced to provide better value per dollar than one liter containers of the same product; and,

WHEREAS peer institutions such as Brandeis University¹, Tufts University², Emory University³, and other universities in New York State do not restrict the size of distilled spirit containers⁴ ⁵ ⁶ ⁷ ⁸ ⁹; and,

WHEREAS many students purchase 64-ounce containers ("growlers") of draft beer available for sale at major grocery stores, brewhouses, and beer specialty stores in the Greater Rochester Area; and,

WHEREAS 64-ounce "growlers" provide higher quality beer experiences for consumers of artisanal beer products, and thus are not likely to be used to facilitate binge drinking; and,

WHEREAS students would benefit from access to the thriving craft brewing industry in the Greater Rochester Area and New York State, an industry that contributes as much as $3.5 billion to the state’s economy; and,

WHEREAS many students currently possess handles and growlers on campus, but are unaware of the aforementioned restrictions in the University’s alcohol policy, and report that these policies are routinely unenforced; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Students’ Association Senate supports changes to the University of Rochester’s “Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy” to permit the possession of 1.75 liter distilled spirit containers on campus by students who are legally permitted to do so; and,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Students’ Association Senate supports changes to the alcohol policy to permit the possession of 64-ounce containers of draft beer on campus by students who are legally permitted to do so; and,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Students’ Association Senate charges the Executive Branch to advocate for these changes to the alcohol policy and report back to the Senate with reasonable frequency.

Ethan Bidna '16  
Speaker, Students’ Association Senate

Grant Dever '16  
President, Students’ Association

Senate Votes: Yes: 13  No: 0  Abs: 1  Date: 04/04/2016

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