

FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE
COLLEGE COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
July 31, 2019

College Council members present: Patricia Hill Williams, Robert Sweeney, Paul Caroleo, Kenneth Card, James Durant, Richard Redmond, David Curry, Jahad Hoyte

Excused absence: Randi Shubin Dresner, Kathleen Ferrell

College Administration: John Nader, Greg O'Connor, Kevin Jordan, Tom Corti, Patrick Calabria,

Guests: Christine Laplace, Kevin Murphy, Kelsey Russell, Kathy Coley, Peter Thomas, Allison Eichler, Carolyn Fedder

Dr. Williams convened the meeting at 10:00am and thanked all for attending this special summer meeting with a **single action agenda, the FSC Student Alcohol Policy**. She explained the single action agenda item requires the Council to review and act on the policy approved six years ago and referred to the updated version that was forwarded to all prior to this meeting.

Dr. Nader introduced Kevin Murphy, Director Health and Wellness and Kelsey Russell, College Prevention Coordinator, who primarily drafted the policy with input from a sub-committee of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Team (ADAPT) and campus counsel Christine LaPlace. He also welcomed Jahad Hoyte, the new student representative to the college council and guest Allison Eichler, journalist of Anton Publications.

Mr. Murphy explained the goals of the policy identify a reasonable amount of alcohol students may consume, educate students on how to drink responsibly, and to incorporate a Good Samaritan policy so that students can report a situation where another individual has had too much to drink and call for help without facing discipline for violation of the alcohol and/or drug policy. This policy offers students the opportunity to safely and responsibly drink alcoholic beverages and be treated as adults, while limiting the College's liability.

The policy defines standardized alcohol percentages, offers clarification of rules, and addresses issues raised by University Police and Residence Life. By training resident students in bystander intervention, providing education, and encouraging responsible behavior as students transition into adults.

Ms. Russell added that Red Watchband training will be mandatory for all resident students. Twenty-one year olds may drink in the dorms, with the required training, and are responsible for explaining rules to their guests. Underage guests are not permitted to drink in the dorms.

Administration would like to have the revised policy in place for the fall semester, for implementation and posting on the website and in the student handbook.

Dr. Williams stressed the importance of offering consideration to students who seek help from someone of authority for an intoxicated individual who may be facing a medical emergency.

Dr. Nader states this policy is specific to alcohol use and conduct of students and their guests in the residence halls, and does not address off campus events.

Dr. Corti added that on campus events that serve alcohol are infrequent and certain procedures must be followed. Aramark employees trained in TIPS and use tabs on wristbands to limit alcoholic drinks.

Mr. Redmond questioned section 7.5 of the policy regarding searching closets and drawers and if a twenty-one or older student is responsible for an underage student concealing alcohol. Dr. Corti responds that Residence Life looks only for alcohol found openly. He added that pairing of older students has challenges; discipline for first time occurrences is handled within residence life and do not appear on transcripts. The policy is education based— not discipline based and promotes safe behavior as students transition into adults.

Training is available to commuter students but is not mandatory. They are expected to follow the same standards as resident students at sanctioned events and in the residence halls. Of-age guests are held to the same quantity limits and provisions of the policy. Drinking is never allowed at sporting events and the policy specifies the restricted locations on campus. The policy is silent on commuter students with alcohol in the car; this is a University Police matter.

Mr. Murphy said that committee members from University Police, Student Activities, Dean of Students, Greek Life, and Residence Life asked that the policy clearly state how students can get in trouble and the consequences so there is consistency for every student. Amnesty and expected conduct are spelled out. It provides education, prevention, procedures and appropriate controls to students if they are of age and will assist in Drug Free School Act reporting.

A drug and alcohol counselor /clinical social worker on staff provides outreach and therapy to students with drug and alcohol problems. Positive impact has been made and many students decide to continue therapy after the mandated time.

Mr. Caroleo asked who handles disciplinary actions of suspension or expulsion. Dr. Corti responds that the Dean of Students or Hearing Board make the determinations and appeals are directed to the VP of Student Affairs.

Mr. Curry indicated that he would like all students get Red Watchband training as many commuters are at house parties or bars where the training would be useful and added that training youngest students would be ideal. Dr. Nader stated that any student may voluntarily take the training, but it is not viable to train all 10,000 students and that we are allowing for drinking on campus with controls to deter students from drinking elsewhere and then traveling here under the influence. Mr. Curry stated that the policy makes more sense than a zero tolerance policy. High-risk commuter students such as athletes and Greek life organizations are targeted for the open training.

Ms. Russell shared that the Oasis Grant we received is being used to build community/ campus coalitions and aims to intervene and decrease the use of underage alcohol and drugs. Outreach includes working with Farmingdale High School on a prevention campaign and participation in Shed the Meds day with United Methodist Church in Farmingdale Village and drug collections with Nassau and Suffolk County Police departments.

Dr. Williams asked if any alcohol related incidents were reported to us by local police regarding students our students. Dr. Card says these reports usually come to school districts when parents serve alcohol to underage students at house parties. Dr. Card added there is a correlation between underage drinking and mental health issues. This policy recognizes that our students are adults and teaches responsibility by holding them accountable. Mr. Redmond agreed the policy is necessary and all his questions were

answered.

Mr. Caroleo moved to adopt the Student Alcohol policy. Mr. Durant seconded.

Motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Fedder

Approved October 16, 2019

Link: The revised and approved [FSC Student Alcohol Policy](#)

Dates to Remember:

Friday, September 27 - Legislative Breakfast, breakfast 8:30am, program 9:00am Campus Center Ballroom

Thursday, October 3 – Bill Fichtner Cold Brook Screening, 5:00pm, Little Theatre, Roosevelt Hall

Wednesday, October 16 – College Council Meeting, 10:00am, Conklin Hall #100

Friday, October 18 - Sunday, October 20 - ACT Conference, The Otesaga Resort, Cooperstown, NY