OUTLINE – ADVISER EDUCATION SESSION

ALCOHOL AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

1. Alcohol and alcohol abuse are realities on most college campuses.
2. College is a time for testing limits, experimenting, making mistakes, figuring out who you are…and not all of our students drink alcohol and of those that do choose to drink, many of them do not abuse alcohol.
3. Annually, on U.S. college campuses:

* 1,825 college students die from alcohol-related unintentional injuries
* 696,000 students are assaulted by another student who has been drinking
* 97,000 students are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault
* About 25% of students report academic consequences of their drinking
* More than 150,000 students develop an alcohol-related health problem and between 1.2 and 1.5 percent of students try to commit suicide due to drinking or drug use
* 3,360,000 students drive under the influence of alcohol
* About 11% of students report that they have damaged property under the influence of alcohol
* 110,000 students are arrested for an alcohol-related violation such as public drunkenness or driving under the influence
* 31% of college students met criteria for a diagnosis of alcohol abuse and 6% of a diagnosis of alcohol dependence

(www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov)

1. Clearly, this is an issue that the University of Dayton must pay attention to. We are concerned for student safety, student health and wellness, and student success. Our Commitment to Community calls upon us to examine how our behaviors are impacting those around us.
2. There is a committee under the Dean of Students examining the negative impacts of drinking games on all of our students – again, students are harmed and die every year from alcohol abuse and drinking games contributes to that culture of ‘drinking to get drunk.’
3. Student organizations and student organization leaders have a responsibility to provide an experience in their organizations that does not inhibit student success and that does not endanger themselves or other students.
4. Student Life and Kennedy Union has established a set of requirements for student organization sponsored events that include alcohol. These events are usually sponsored by groups that have liquor liability insurance through their national offices.
5. The requirements were developed to be in alignment with risk management practices required by the companies that provide this insurance to national organizations, and they include:

* Alcohol must be provided by a third-party vendor (the University of Dayton does not have a BYOB policy, nor is that permitted).
* The event may not be held at a public, open bar or tavern – an organization may rent a room or area in a bar or tavern closed during business hours.
* A guest list must be provided in advance of the event.
* A member of the sponsoring organization must attend Event Management Training, provided by Student Life and Kennedy Union.
* Individual students or their guests may not drive to the event; third party transportation must be provided (or the group may walk to an event).
* Non-alcoholic beverages must be made available, and appropriate food items must be provided (beyond salty snacks).
* Sober Monitors must be provided by the sponsoring organization.
* The organization must demonstrate how hosting an event with alcohol is in alignment with their organizational purpose and values.
* Students are not permitted to “pre-game” and consume alcohol prior to a registered event.

1. These requirements are in place for any student organization-sponsored event that includes alcohol.
2. We have a responsibility to help students understand the risks and liabilities associated with hosting an event with alcohol…for student organizations, this gets even more complex when they have a party in the neighborhood for their organization.
3. The students involved often think of it as a party for their “friends” but when these events are promoted through organizational Facebook sites, communicated through organizational listserves, announced at organizational meetings, and/or planned by organization members, they may be crossing a threshold and be perceived as organization-sponsored events.
4. What does this mean to our groups? What would happen if someone were injured or overdosed on alcohol at one of these events?

* Beyond the harm done to individual students, which is of most concern, an investigation would likely ensue to determine if this was a student organization event or not.
* Who attended, how they knew about the event, and who planned the event would all come into question.
* Were underage students served alcohol? By whom?
* Were intoxicated students served alcohol? By whom?
* Students could have individual criminal charges levied against them, as well as individual Code of Conduct violations assessed.
* The organization, its advisers, our staff, and the University could be charged in a criminal and/or civil court case.
* We would be asked ***what did we know, or what should we have known about this event, and what did we do to prevent x from happening?***

1. We need to have regular conversations with students we advise about the risk and responsibility involved in hosting events with alcohol. Again, they have a responsibility to provide an experience in their organizations that does not inhibit student success and that does not endanger themselves or other students.
2. The benefits of involvement and leadership in a student organization are well-researched, and well-documented. We know that, “leading college organizations helps students attain capabilities employers value, including communication, adaptability, problem-identification and problem solving, self-management, [and] teamwork” (Patterson, 2012).
3. Encourage your students to ask questions, think about consequences, and act in ways that reflect their personal values, the values of the organization they belong to, and the values of the University of Dayton.
4. Thank you for your commitment to students. Please contact our office if you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss this topic further.