

IFC Council Alcohol Policy **Revised Spring 2005**

Overview:

The objective of this policy is to limit the instances where hazing becomes more physically harmful due to the incorporation of large amount of alcohol. Studies have shown that drinking is directly related to the performance of behaviors that are excessive and irresponsible (Johnson 2004). Being realistic in our approach to trying to produce a remedy for hazing, we should note that making it more difficult for students to have available to them unlimited amounts of alcohol. In 2005 Purdue has had to deal with instances that were related to hazing, while steps were taken to appropriately discipline those involved there are further steps that can be taken to prevent risky hazing practices before they happen (Exponent 2005).

Specific Rules and Regulations:

1. No fraternity on the Purdue campus may possess more than 6 cases of beer or 2 kegs at any particular time.

Implementation:

- An on duty officer will randomly be allowed to check the amount of alcohol in rooms and any specified place alcohol may be kept. Typically twice a month.
- One member of each fraternity will be designated to make sure their fraternity is complying with the policy.
- Cost will be minimal, since officers will include checks in their rounds.

Attitudes of Students:

In a survey of students participating in various clubs, and organizations, 76% responded as having been hazed to become members (Walsh 2000). While this doesn't always mean that physical harm may result or other more serious consequences, other sources state that fraternity hazing and the activities that lead up to the actual incident may put the pledges in circumstances that they would normally refuse (Sweet 1999). Talking to students with close ties to fraternities a friend Jeremy Jones had this to say about hazing practices, "It can get out of hand, but it's really kind of funny." This is an indication that hazing is not necessarily a practice that can realistically be eradicated from fraternities anytime soon. However, by decreasing the chances that these practices end in harm we concentrate more on preventing sever consequences rather than dealing with them after they have happened.

References:

Johnson, Thomas J., and Virgil L. Sheets. "Measuring College Students' Motives for Playing Drinking Games." *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. 18.2 (2004): 91-99.

Anonymous. "Purdue Withdraws Recognition of Black Fraternity Until 2010." *Black Issues in Higher Education*. 19 May 2005: 24.

Walsh, Mark. "Across the Nation: Hazing is Widespread, Student Survey Shows." *Education-week*. 2000. Sept. 6; 20(1):14.

Sweet, Stephen. "Understanding Fraternity Hazing: Insights from Symbolic Interactionist Theory." *Journal of College Student Development*. 40.4 (1999): 355-363.

Jones, Jeremy. Personal Interview. 29 July 2005.

Aug. 2, 2005

Dear Jeremy Jones

I know that you have some investments in fraternities, but I would really appreciate it if you would present this policy change to the Intrafraternity Council. By reading the proposal attached I think you can agree that this is a problem and action can be taken to help decrease the chances that dangerous consequences will occur. No research is needed on your part, all I ask is that you turn in my proposal as I have already done the research and wrote the proposal. Thanks for you time.

Sincerely,
Emily

Emily
English 106
Professor Rose
Cover Letter and group evaluations
Aug. 2 2005

Dear Professor Rose

Hazing is not only a campus wide problem, but a nation wide problem. Material on hazing can be found on hazing in athletics, club groups, and more commonly, the Greek system. The issue will not be solved anytime soon, but it is beneficial to gather others opinions and debate over solutions to this issue.

One of the questions we asked our selves was who has the ability to make changes in the fraternity system. Because my solution means changing the policies of fraternities I choose to address the Intrafraternity council as my primary audience.

The biggest barrier and source of information was the by laws of the council. By looking at how amendments can be placed the format of my proposal could be more specific. Since there was no formal format I decided to follow the flow of other policies, but add some attractive visuals to help grab the council's attention and make the proposal more interesting. Finally, the by laws do not allow anyone who is not a member of a fraternity to propose policy changes; this is definitely a challenge because I am a girl. I decided to write a formal letter to a close friend that is a member of a frat, convincing him to present my proposal to the IFC council.

As far as compromises go I really got to write about what I wanted, because our group decided to go their separate ways for this project. I did however have to make some compromises as far as the amount of alcohol that I would limit in storage and who it would affect. I would like to limit the selling of alcohol, but that may be a little more unrealistic and if given more time I might have looked into it a little more.

While the frats may have a little less beer at the next party, it is still an adequate amount of alcohol for the party goers to achieve the desired effect and keep the behaviors that may lead to more serious hazing to a minimum. The benefits are that the frats would be taken more seriously by the community because they are taking a stand against dangerous hazing. Less fines and law suits would also be an added benefit for the fraternities and the university.