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Number AR 31
Title A resolution to show student support for the creation and implementation of a medical amnesty policy at the University of Texas at Austin
Stage Draft
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Created 2006-03-28 17:22:28
Edited 2006-04-07 16:39:16
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Version 6
Version Note
Views 437

[1] **Whereas** 599,000 students, between the ages of 18 and 24, are unintentionally injured under the influence of alcohol every year in the United States. [1]

[2] **Whereas** 1,700 college students, between the ages of 18 and 24, die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries in the United States. [1]

[3] **Whereas** more than 150,000 students develop alcohol-related health problems in the United States. [1]

[4] **Whereas** one in five college students are regular binge drinkers and studies show that binge drinking rates continue to rise in the United States. [2]

[5] **Whereas** Student Government of the University of Texas at Austin, on March 21, 2006, unanimously voted in support of AR 28, "Establishing that e-chug online alcohol assessment program is a requirement for first-time entering students to view semester-end grades," recognizing the importance of drug and alcohol education programs and their effectiveness in addressing such issues. [8]

[6] **Whereas** approximately 5 percent of 4-year college students are involved with the police or campus security as a result of their drinking and an estimated 110,000 students, between the ages of 18 and 24, are arrested for an alcohol-related violations in the United States. [1]

[7] **Whereas** the University of Texas' student judicial services "will impose a minimum disciplinary penalty of suspension for a specified period of time or suspension of rights and privileges, or both, for conduct related to the use, possession, or distribution of drugs that are prohibited by state, federal, or local law...disciplinary probation...expulsion, or such other penalty as may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances." [9]

[8] **Whereas** 264 liquor law, 21 possession, and 41 drug paraphernalia reported offenses occurred in 2005 at the University of Texas at Austin. [10]

[9] Whereas

according to Dr. Chuck Roper, Health Education Coordinator (Alcohol and Drug Education Programs) the potential for judicial action by any University department and/or legal action by University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) may act as a barrier to students seeking medical assistance for themselves or another person .

[10] Whereas

Rice University, Cornell University, Dartmouth University, University of Pennsylvania, New York University, and Lafayette College all implement medical amnesty policies at their respected institutions. [3-7]

[11] Whereas

that Student Government encourages the creation and implementation of a medical amnesty policy that emphasizes the University of Texas at Austin's primary concern as the well-being, health, and safety of its students.

[12] Whereas

that medical amnesty will prevent potential judicial consequences against the person(s) providing aide, the person(s) in need of assistance, or the organization hosting the event where the incident occurs, as long as they did not contribute to the condition of the person(s) receiving medical assistance, for alcohol and drug induced medical emergencies.

[13] Whereas

that a copy of this resolution will be sent to Dr. Juan Gonzales, Vice President for Student Affairs, Robert Dahlstrom, Chief of the University of Texas Police Department, and John Dalton, University of Texas Judicial Services.

Comments

- (1) Medical Amnesty: People may be reluctant to seek help in such alcohol or other drug induced medical emergencies because of potential judicial consequences for themselves, the person in need of assistance, or the organization hosting the event where the incident occurs. Since these emergencies are potentially life threatening, a medical amnesty policy would reduce barriers to seeking assistance by not subjecting students involved to judicial action and increasing the likelihood that community members will call for medical assistance

Footnotes

1. <http://www.collegedrinkingprevention.gov/StatsSummaries/snapshot.aspx>
- 2 <http://www.jointogether.org/news/headlines/inthenews/2005/colleges-address-student.html>
- 3 <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~rems/education/alcohol-statement.shtml>
- 4 <http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/emergencies/types/map.html>
- 5 <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~deancoll/documents/goodsam.html>
- 6 <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/ohe/library/drugs/amnesty.htm>
- 7 http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~bailey/good_samaritan.php
- 8 www.utsg.org
- 9 www.cc.utexas.edu/student/vpsa/security/drugfree/penalties.html

10 Roxanne Hodgins, Records Administrator for UTPD [(512)232-9638]