

Protective Environments

The task group was charged with identifying procedures that can create protective environments in the Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) community at the University of Iowa (for example, improving safety and monitoring at events or creating social incentives for behavior) to prevent sexual misconduct within FSL chapters.

The specific task group charge:

- 1) Work with the UI Anti-violence Coalition to learn more about creating protective environments that complement UI prevention strategies already in place.
- 2) Identify risk factors within FSL that contribute to sexual misconduct.
- 3) Identify policy and procedures or other types of strategies that mitigate risk factors.
- 4) Provide recommendations to create protective environments within FSL Chapters to Tom Rocklin, Vice President Student Life and to the FSL community by April 28, 2017.
- 5) Provide a follow-up report on implementation progress by October 15, 2017 to the Vice President of Student Life and to Monique DiCarlo, Chair, UI Anti-violence Coalition.

The task group was comprised of students in the FSL community from each of the four councils and FSL staff. The task group was led by Zachary Rubenbauer, Interfraternity President and co-lead by Helen Lahrman, Center for Student Involvement and Leadership, Assistant Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life Programs. For spring 2017, four key environments received the primary focus. This list is not exhaustive and more work must be completed, but the task group started with these identified high-risk environments: tailgates, out-of-town formals, unregistered/registered events, and the 10p.m. Iowa City Ordinance. Our recommendations will be outlined in the key findings section of this report.

Identified Fraternity & Sorority Environments – Spring 2017

Key findings

1. Tailgates

a. Issues

- i. Binge/Underage Drinking
- ii. Duration (long periods of time with consistent drinking)
- iii. Increased unruly behavior due to atmosphere
- iv. Source of income for fraternities
- v. Common source alcohol
- vi. No food/water readily available

b. What have other communities put into place

- i. Wisconsin – Check BAC, all season-ticket holders can only enter game with BAC under certain limit
- ii. Ohio State – Added presence of non-salty foods, follow BYOB policy for tailgates, security officials at tailgates
- iii. Kansas – Buddy system to hold members accountable for their brothers/sisters

c. Additional recommendations

- i. Set a timeframe for the events
- ii. Proof of contract with household hosting tailgate
- iii. Sober monitors throughout event (not new members)
- iv. Check-in station along Melrose

2. Out-of-town formals

- a. It is important to note that we make these recommendations based on the fact that if overnight formals are banned outright, they will continue to occur and occur unregistered. We reached this conclusion based on our knowledge of rumors that chapters who are under sanctions and not allowed to have an overnight formal, still have them without the knowledge of FSL and the University; which have the potential to be even more dangerous than chapters holding formals that are sanctioned by FSL and the University.

b. Issues

- i. No regulation of alcohol consumption
- ii. Date expectations
 1. 'Hook-up' Culture
 2. See statistics in Notes.

iii. No concrete way to prevent accidents from occurring

c. Recommendations

- i. 80% of new members must complete UIPD's *Be A Man* program that focuses on healthy masculinity and touches on bystander intervention in order to register and hold a sanctioned overnight formal event.
- ii. A chapter must hold their already mandatory in house educational through WRAC/RVAP that focuses on bystander intervention/consent/sexual violence awareness prior to having a registered overnight formal event.
- iii. FSL will work with WRAC/RVAP/other relevant organizations/offices on campus to develop a presentation that deals with the ideas of consent and bystander intervention especially as it relates to overnight formal events and the expectation idea that dates feel pressure to hook up with the individuals that bring them.

d. The above proposals are something to help shift and combat the issues that are prevalent at out of town formals. Our hopes are to make this risky environment safer and to try to shift the strong culture that Iowa has regarding this cultural norm. We have put a lot of thought as well as dug deep into our research. The above ideas are things we think could be beneficial, whether that is all of the ideas or just a few that are eventually implemented.

3. Unregistered/Registered Events

a. Issues

- i. Open source alcohol/Underage drinking/Binge drinking
- ii. Instances of the use of date-rape drugs
- iii. Large quantities of hard liquor or "jungle juice"
- iv. Failure to keep parties "closed"
- v. Implicit pressure for sex created by events hosted in dark basements owned/operated by a fraternity
- vi. Lack of adequate oversight by chapter risk leaders
- vii. Failure to provide sober monitors

b. Recommendations

- i. Group consensus within the community must be found to determine what is acceptable within our community, and what we will not tolerate.
- ii. We must enforce the regulations we impose upon ourselves and our community.
 1. Example: Other IFC and PHC communities have forbidden hard liquor from their events.
- iii. **Most importantly we must hold each other accountable.**

4. 10pm Iowa City Ordinance

- a. Limits of this – put in place by the city
- b. Issues
 - i. Pressure to binge drink before 10pm.
 - ii. Underage drinking
 - iii. No regulation of bouncers at bars to stop fake ID's being used
 - iv. Lack of accountability of police & bar/liquor stores' staff
 - v. Ease of access to buying alcohol and getting into bars adds to the culture at Iowa
 - 1. The lack of consequences for bars caught serving underage individuals is a big part
 - 2. No incentive for bars to only serve those of age because every other bar would let in people underage to make money.
- c. Recommendations
 - i. Iowa FSL does not have nearly as many tangible solutions to this issue, as it is not an issue specific to the Greek life like some of the other high risk environments we have pointed out so we do not have as much power.
 - ii. Incentive on renting larger spaces for events like the IMU Second-Floor ballroom, even by helping with the renting fees for the smaller organizations in FSL.
 - iii. Collaborating with bigger organizations like CAB, or Dance Marathon on hosting events during the evening
 - iv. Create a culture of stronger accountability from members within Greek life
 - 1. Still do not have a concrete plan for what this looks like long-term

Conclusion

The FSL community as a whole must identify and understand how these environments in their current state, do not promote scholarship, leadership, service and friendship. The task group recommends that the councils and University incentive the behaviors expected of all FSL students and Hawkeyes, alike. The immediate recommendations are work with the local city council officers to be sure it is known about our concerns with the 10pm Ordinance for all UI students. For tailgates we will utilize the four additional recommendations under letter {c} and have our FSL staff call the other institutions to learn about their efforts in greater detail. And lastly, with Out of Town formals and unregistered/registered events the councils will work with the aforementioned recommendations and solutions for this up and coming semester. This group will be reconvening next fall to update on implementation progress, as well as better understanding a few more environments that do not currently protect all UI students.

Appendix: Notes from each group.

Tailgates

Biggest Issues:

- Binge drinking
- Unsupervised distribution of alcohol
- Underage drinking
- Long hours (can start as early as 5am, end as late as bar close)
- Larger diffusion of responsibility because of amount of people there
- Due to nature of event (high-energy around football game/tailgate), there tends to be more unruly behavior (vandalism, fighting, sitting on roofs, theft, etc.)
- Purchase of alcohol with chapter funds (or by fraternity chapter members)
- Charge non-members (non-fraternity members) to enter tailgates; fraternity makes money to buy more alcohol
- Women do not have to pay/purchase admittance into tailgate or for alcohol
- Common source alcohol
- Handles of hard liquor are available for anybody
- No food/water readily available

Tactics:

- Wisconsin's Check BAC – season ticket holders aren't allowed to enter the game unless their BAC is below a certain limit
- Ohio State's Panhellenic Council implemented requirements of:
 - The supply and presence of non-salty food
 - The presence of security to ensure that unwanted individuals/non-students cannot enter the event – suggestions include hired security guards and fencing
 - Football tailgating events still follow the BYOB Policy
- Look into the implementation of a BYOB policy
 - This would require chapters to register event
 - Submit guest list (this would regulate the amount of people attending)
 - Sober monitors
 - Requirement to have food/non-alcoholic beverage readily available
 - Diminishes the purchase of alcohol with chapter funds/charging people at the door
- Regulation on how long tailgates take place
 - Set a timeframe in the day that they're allowed to happen
 - Require start/end times
- Show proof of contract/agreement with household (location where tailgate takes place) to ensure that the organization is meeting an agreed upon set of expectations (listed above);

include contact information for these households to check that the organization is meeting these expectations (improve town and gown relations)

- Ensure sober monitors are throughout the event – not new members’ responsibility to fill this role
- Implementing a buddy system (<https://buddy.ku.edu>)
 - <https://buddy.ku.edu/protective-behaviors>
- “Check-in station” along Melrose
 - Free water, simple snack to hand out, phone charging stations, shade (during hot game days)
 - Check your BAC – how are you doing? (this could lead to contests but also have a person stationed there to help them understand the seriousness of their BAC)
 - Incentivize volunteers to staff this station with free football tickets for the game (?)

Protective Environments Task Group Recommendations - Overnight Out of Town Formals

It is important to note that we make these recommendations based on the fact that if overnight formals are banned outright, they will continue to occur and occur unregistered. We reach this conclusion based on our knowledge of rumors that chapters who are under sanctions and not allowed to have an overnight formal, still have them without the knowledge of FSL and the University which have the potential to be even more dangerous than chapters holding formals that are sanctioned by FSL and the University.

Background Information

5. Fraternity overnight formals still happen even though some chapters are technically banned from having them.
6. There is no solid concrete way to prevent tragic freak accidents that result in harm to students attending overnight formals.
7. There is no way to safely regulate alcohol consumption, types of alcohol available, or underage drinking at overnight formals whether they be out of town or in town.
 - a. Even if formals are not overnight and out of town events, there is still very little that can be done to curb this issue due to the use of fake ID’s, older individuals buying alcohol for younger individuals, and pre-gaming the event.
8. We have determined that the largest issue with overnight fraternity formals is the expectation that dates to these events are expected to ‘hook up’ with the individual bringing them to the event
 - a. We conducted an anonymous survey of sorority women, 172 responses, that asked questions regarding this expectation at fraternity overnight formals/events
 - i. 20.2% of responses have felt pressured to hook up with their date

- ii. 56.3% of responders who felt this pressure to hook up with their date because “He was my date so I felt like I had to.”
 - 1. 29.2% of responders who felt this pressure to hook up with their date because “He spent the money on me so I felt I had to reciprocate.”
 - 2. Other responders who felt this pressure answered with: “Same sleeping space”, “there is a stigma and pressure...to be held to a standard to repay their date for bringing them to said event. I think our younger members in the community feel that it is an obligation to do so in order to be accepted in the community”, “He wanted to and expected me to...”, “He didn’t pressure me, but I certainly felt the pressure hearing about all the other couples that were hooking up”.
- iii. 42.1% of responders felt freshman were most susceptible to creating this expectation, 25.6% felt that sophomores were most susceptible, and 25% felt that all grade levels were most susceptible.
- iv. 49.4% of responders thought that this expectation idea is prevalent at fraternity overnight formals/events.
- v. 32.7% of responders felt that this expectation idea was a problem in the community.

Recommendations

- 9. 80% of new members must complete UIPD’s *Be A Man* program that focuses on healthy masculinity and touches on bystander intervention in order to register and hold a sanctioned overnight formal event.
 - a. It is evident that younger members are most susceptible to creating this expectation of hooking of with your date to the event, and by having them go through this training it could change thoughts and attitudes regarding the perceived ‘need’ to hook up with a date simply because they attended the event with you.
 - b. As time goes on, the hope is the expectation idea will be much less prevalent as the fraternity men partake in this program every year, especially as younger members ascend to leadership roles within their chapters.
- 10. A chapter must hold their already mandatory in house educational through WRAC/RVAP that focuses on bystander intervention/consent/sexual violence awareness prior to having a registered overnight formal event.
- 11. FSL will work with WRAC/RVAP/other relevant organizations/offices on campus to develop a presentation that deals with the ideas of consent and bystander intervention especially as it relates to overnight formal events and the expectation idea that dates feel pressure to hook up with the individuals that bring them.

- a. This presentation will be given to new members during one of their new member education sessions and will be presented by a council member to their respective chapters within their councils and observed by someone within WRAC/RVAP/other relevant organizations/offices, FSL staff, or Student Life Administrators to ensure the message is being communicated effectively.
- b. The hope is that this presentation can be put together over the summer and implemented next fall.

The above proposals are something to help shift and combat the issues that are prevalent at out of town formals. Our hopes are to make this risky environment safer and to try to slowly shift the strong culture that Iowa has regarding this culture norm. We have put a lot of thought as well as dug deep into our research. The above ideas are things we think could be beneficial, whether that is all of the ideas or just a few that are eventually implemented.

Unregistered Social Events

In our investigation, Holly and I have determined that risks surrounding unregistered social events by fraternities and sororities within our community are multiple and progressive. Additionally, the acceptability of which these events have tacitly been given by both previous and current administrations within IFC/PHC only adds to the danger of these environments. We believe there is much room for change. Our only hesitation comes from the debate of whether or not our committee's focus should be to prevent these events (a seemingly impossible task), or to make these events as safe as possible under the assumption that they would inevitably take place in the underground if we were to crack down on these events.

Many of the risks of unregistered events surround unsupervised consumption of alcohol and other drugs, power imbalances between the owners of the complex/house/etc. (i.e. the fraternity and their house) and their guests (most often sorority women), and overall disregard for planning and risk mitigation that would prepare chapters for the regular risks associated with these events and also for more catastrophic risks (i.e. incapacitation of individuals due to alcohol poisoning).

Risks identified: open source alcohol, instances of the use of date-rape drugs, large quantities of hard liquor or "jungle juice," failure to keep parties "closed," consumption of alcohol of those under the legal age, implicit pressure for sex created by events hosted in dark basements owned/operated by a fraternity, lack of adequate oversight by chapter risk managers/presidents/other leaders, failure to provide sober monitors, pressure to engage in binge drinking (through coercion, "drinking games," etc.), sexual assault due to incapacitation from alcohol and other drugs.

This is a laundry list of risks associated with unregistered social events in our community, and by no means an exhaustive one. Some chapters inevitably have more of these risks at their events, but I cannot identify a single chapter within the IFC community that does

not host events where any of the problems listed above are not an issue. So the question remains, how do we go about solving this problem?

Holly and I (along with advice received from NIC representative Will Foran) believe that a possible solution would be two-fold. First, group consensus within the community must be found to determine what is acceptable within our community, and what we will not tolerate. We realize that in a perfect world, we would add new rules and regulations and none of these events would occur. However, if more rules and restrictions are put in place, we fear the problem will only be driven further underground—creating an even more unsafe environment than currently exists. Secondly, we must enforce the regulations we impose upon ourselves and our community. Per example, other IFC and PHC communities have forbidden hard liquor from their events. This was not just a policy they implemented at a legislative meeting and then left everyone be. They came together as a community, decided it was an issue, enacted the policy, **and most importantly they held each other accountable**. If a fraternity was found to be serving hard liquor at an event, they were immediately placed on social probation for a number of weeks—without hesitation by the governing council, and with the support of the community.

Problems such as those involving unregistered events cannot be merely solved from the top down. Dialogue must start within the community as a whole. Our legislative meetings should be a time for discussion about the issues we face as a chapter, and a time for solutions to be offered, accepted, and implemented by the community at-large. Chapter executive boards, as well as their chapters as a whole, should be visited by members of the governing councils to have genuine discussion with them about the risks our communities face, and how they can be part of the solution. This change will not happen overnight, but there are steps we can take to mitigate the numerous risks surrounding unregistered social events.

10pm Ordinance

The University of Iowa Fraternity and Sorority Life has identified the 10pm Ordinance as a problem contributing to the drinking culture at Iowa. We are not focusing on the tickets and sanctions that result from the violation of this law; instead we are talking about the pressure to binge drink before 10pm.

Those who are underage and go out to the bars often go to the bars around 8:30 and try to drink as much as they can before 10pm. This results in underage students being extremely intoxicated by the time they are leaving the bar at 10pm. These underage students either continue drinking at downtown bars (and risk receiving multiple tickets) or stumble to a party where often the alcohol distribution isn't monitored properly.

The concern we are pointing out is that the 10pm ordinance creates a pressure to drink quickly in a short amount of time. Many students are drinking until 2am and many underage students feel

an urgency to begin as early as 8pm so they can participate in the downtown culture, meaning they are spending upwards of 6 hours drinking on a night out.

Iowa FSL does not have nearly as many tangible solutions to this issue, as it is not an issue specific to the Greek life like some of the other high risk environments we have pointed out so we do not have as much power.

We did talk about how the drinking culture at the University of Iowa is not simply just the result of students' attitude towards drinking. It is supplemented by the lack of accountability of police and people working at bars and liquor stores. The ease of access to buying alcohol and getting into bars adds to the culture at Iowa. The lack of consequences for bars caught serving underage individuals is a big part of that. There is no incentive for bars to only serve those of age because every other bar would let in those underage to make money.

We believe that while students must be held accountable for their actions, we must also be able to trust our police and bar/liquor store employees to create safe environments where nobody is being over served, and those who are being served are of age.

I have most of the same ideas that were previously stated in the email before. There is only so much us, as officers of FSL, can do for our community regarding the 10PM Ordinance. With that being said, it is based on the accountability of friends who work at these bars, especially for members of FSL who are working as well. It's always easier to buy a drink at a bar or liquor store when your friend "hooks you up", or when members of age go to bars/head downtown with underage members as well. This creates a culture of "bonding" which isn't what being in a fraternity/sorority is. Not only is there a lack of accountability for bar owners and the police, but with our own members as well.

Talking with members from MGC, an idea to reduce the binge drinking problem at the University of Iowa is to allow for organizations an incentive on renting larger spaces for events like the IMU Second-Floor ballroom, even by helping with the renting fees for the smaller organizations in FSL. In addition, I think that collaborating with bigger organizations like CAB, or Dance Marathon on hosting events during the evening can potentially reduce the binge drinking problem before 10pm.

With the 10PM Ordinance, I think we need to hold our older members accountable for inviting underage members out to drink at the bars, or the parties. Once again, my ideas on this issue were mostly stated with the previous email sent, but I still wanted to represent MGC's point of view with binge drinking and trying to find solutions to reduce it. If you have any questions please let me know.