



Event Alcohol Sales and Service Task Force Summary of Findings December, 2012

Committee Membership: Representatives from faculty, academic staff, classified staff and students including alcohol policy subject matter experts.

Committee Charge: The goal of the review is to ensure campus alcohol policies related to alcohol service and sales at university affiliated events are consistent with state and federal law and local ordinances, represent best public health practice, and are fairly and consistently enforced.

- 1) Review current alcohol service and sales policies, procedures, and practices at university affiliated events
- 2) Make specific recommendations for changes to current campus alcohol policy and enforcement regarding alcohol service and sales at university affiliated events and
- 3) Communicate these findings to the campus community.

Issues outside the scope of the committee include prevention and education regarding alcohol misuse and abuse, on-campus retail sales, community alcohol prevention efforts, and tailgating.

Findings:

1. Center for College Health and Safety reviewed UW-Madison AODA policies in 2007 and identified gaps when compared with guidelines and best practices. Applicable laws include UWS Ch. 17 and Ch. 18, the Minimum Legal Drinking Age and the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act.
2. Multiple policies and guidance documents currently exist including UW-Madison Facilities Use Policies P-7, P-7.1, P-7.2, P-7.3, the Alcohol Permit Memo for Deans, Directors, and Department Chairs and Alcohol Sales and Service Information.
3. Current policy lacks statements of alcohol philosophy, the need to comply with state and federal law, sanctions or penalties for violations, and a process for routine review and oversight.
4. Current policy lacks standards regarding alcohol service at events for undergraduates and when attendees are below the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) and requirements to ensure enforcement of MLDA.
5. Alcohol Beverage Service Permit process does not limit event size and scope, require training for responsible employees, clearly delineate responsibilities for legal and responsible service. Permits are signed by high level Authorized Officials which may limit oversight.
6. Communication of current policies is problematic due to multiple policies, policies which are not clearly written and difficult to locate, and a lack of routine communication to campus community.

Policy Recommendations:

- 1. Clarify definition of University Event. Policy is applicable irrespective of location.**
University Event means any gathering, program, or activity that a) that takes place on university lands; or b) that takes place as part of a university-sponsored activity not located on university lands; or c) that the university, or a part of the university, is paying for including student segregated fees.
- 2. Enhance statement of campus alcohol philosophy.** Include consideration of event goals and focus as part of decision to serve alcohol, alcohol is a regulated substance, a clear statement of responsibility to prevent consumption by persons under the Minimum Legal Drinking Age, and set a threshold that 2/3 of attendees must be above the Minimum Legal Drinking Age to permit alcohol beverage service at a events
- 3. Expand and enhance local control of alcohol beverage service.** All Deans, Vice Provosts, and Divisional Directors have authority and responsibility to control alcohol beverages in their physical space, set more restrictive policies for their unit, and approve alcohol beverage service permits for their unit.
- 4. Strengthen Alcohol Beverage Service Permit Process.** Changes include the prohibition of sales under the permit, limit events to 2 hours and 50 attendees, prohibit use by student groups, require training for responsible employees, limit responsible employees to faculty, limited, academic or university staff appointments age 21 or over, clarify duties of responsible employees, and add additional requirements for best practices for service.
- 5. Ensure enforcement of Minimum Legal Drinking Age at University Events.** Policy outline requirements for the display of a Responsible Beverage sign, identification check requirement, and physical separation or identification of attendees at events with attendees below MLDA
- 6. Add process and responsibility for policy review, communication and enforcement.** New policy states consequences for violation, empowers VCFA to have oversight, encourages regular review of policy, and creates single Alcohol Beverage Service Permit repository within Risk Management.

Additional Recommendations

1. Update current student alcohol information website to create a single location for all campus alcohol policies and documents.
<http://students.wisc.edu/alcoholinfo/index.html>
2. Create electronic version of alcohol beverage service permit to allow tracking and routing.
3. Communicate alcohol policy to faculty, staff, and students annually. (as part of required notifications under Safe and Drug Free Schools Act)