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## Duke's drinking problem(s): student assessments and recommendations

*Statement of the student members of the Alcohol Subcommittee to the Steering Committee of the Campus Culture Initiative, supplementing the Alcohol Subcommittee Report; Daniel Bowes ('07), David Brown ('07), Jordan Giordano ('09), Andrew Longenecker ('07), Michelle Madeley ('08), Sophie Strike ('07) and Elliott Wolf ('08) contributed to this report.*

### Introduction/Rationale for Report

To the chagrin of students and administrators alike, recent events have brought local and national attention to long-standing concerns about alcohol consumption at Duke. As students, we have a vested interest in ameliorating the harms associated with undergraduate alcohol consumption—both for our benefit and that of the institution. Despite the damage done to the reputations of Duke students and Duke University by the “Lacrosse Incident,” we hope that it will provide the impetus and resolve to address our common concerns about alcohol with reasonable, sustained and student-driven initiatives.

In order to assess these concerns and recommend possible solutions, we present this statement to the Alcohol Working Group of the Campus Culture Initiative. From our perspective as students, we appraise the problems and harms associated with alcohol, discuss some of the factors that aggravate those harms, evaluate the University's current alcohol regime, and finally offer tangible suggestions of our own. This represents a consensus statement agreed upon by all students associated with the subcommittee and we are confident that our views are representative of the broader student body due to our consensus. We strongly recommend, however, engaging as many students as possible in discussions surrounding these issues in order to gain the most diverse perspective possible.

*In addition, it is important for the reader to understand that this statement is not a minority report. Its primary purpose is to provide documentation and explanation supporting several of the recommendations included in the Alcohol Working Group's final report, based on our experience as students and participants in the Duke “social scene.” Both students and administrators want students to take responsibility for addressing issues relating to excessive alcohol consumption on-campus, and we see this student-produced report recommending student-driven initiatives as an important step in that process.*

### Appraisal of the “problem” and the need for intervention

Dr. Cully, Dr. Swartzwelder and Dean Bryan all dramatically demonstrated that a student's decision to use or abuse alcohol can carry significant consequences for themselves or for others. While the information that they presented all focused on the “harms” of alcohol use, they did not seem cognizant of an important distinction that students make when considering alcohol

consumption or any other dangerous behavior—that between the consequences of the behavior for the individual actor and the “external” consequences for other members of the community. Here, we assess those consequences and consider the need to address them separately:

1. *Consequences for the individual:* With respect to the consequences for the individual drinker, we resist the idea that these are especially significant problems that require forcible administrative intervention. Students, as adult members of society, are deeply invested in our own independence and personal responsibility. This independence and freedom includes the right to engage in behavior that is potentially harmful and then live with the potentially serious consequences of our actions. While such behavior does warrant action on the part of peers or the administration, such action should come in the form of support or remonstrating, and not forced intervention or policy. Our feelings on the need for intervention to protect students from themselves is embodied by the following statement from J.S. Mill:

“[A man] cannot rightfully be compelled to do or forbear because it will be better for him to do so, because it will make him happier, because, in the opinions of others, to do so would be wise, or even right. These are good reasons for remonstrating with him, or reasoning with him, or persuading him, or entreating him, but not for compelling him, or visiting him with any evil, in case he do otherwise. [On Liberty]”

We believe that this sentiment is embodied by the administration’s stances on smoking, military service, eating unhealthily, playing contact sports, living a sedentary lifestyle and many other dangerous or self-destructive activities that students are freely allowed to engage in. Even illegal activities that can result in serious bodily or other harm to an individual, such as speeding, aggressive driving or gambling, do not receive the same attention as alcohol. Given that administrative ignorance of those activities is often justified on the basis of student freedom and our status as adults, it is not clear why the effects of alcohol on an individual drinker should be given any more consideration.

2. *Consequences for others:* While we resist the notion that the university must act *in loco parentis* and protect individual students from ourselves, we do believe that there are instances in which alcohol consumption contributes to serious problems. When a student’s behavior negatively impacts others, their behavior needs to be addressed by the administration, the undergraduate community and the wider Duke community. While minor disturbances can be a nuisance, more egregious behaviors are of significant concern to us. Sexual assault, rape, and physical violence have enormous consequences for the Duke community, and particularly the student population, and are often associated with excessive alcohol consumption. We feel that it is incumbent upon every member of the Duke community, including the administration but especially students, to work against these behaviors and contribute to a safe and positive environment.

3. *Conclusion:* As undergraduates, we recognize the effects that alcohol can have on the student community and on other members of the Duke community. We resist the notion that alcohol is the single factor that contributes to these and other problems afflicting Duke, and that these consequences are themselves endemic to alcohol consumption (and certainly not just to underage alcohol consumption). We acknowledge, however, that excessive alcohol consumption

contributes to serious problems afflicting Duke students and the wider community, and these problems warrant committed administrative and student attention. The question now becomes: what kind of attention?

### Aggravating Factors

The first step in considering how to lessen the harms associated with alcohol consumption and create a more positive environment is to consider what aspects of undergraduate culture and institutional practice contribute to unhealthy or destructive drinking patterns. We try and answer the question of ‘why do people drink to excess?’ Here we list three overlapping factors, though we acknowledge that there are many more direct and indirect contributors: lack of experience drinking, the locations in which drinking takes place and the drinking focus of many Duke social events.

1. *Lack of experience drinking:* As noted by both Dean Bryan and Dr. Kulley, the typical offenders who receive amnesty or are transported to the emergency room are first-year students, a fact that strongly suggests that lack of experience is a major contributor to high-risk drinking. In our experience, students who know their limits and have experience with alcohol prior to coming to Duke fare far better than those who have no experience with alcohol whatsoever. Often, those who engage in the highest-risk activity are those who have been either sheltered in their family lives or early college years (Brown/”wellness”) and therefore have no idea how to handle themselves or make too much of their newfound “freedom.” This problem is exacerbated by the disconnect between freshmen and upperclassmen and the fact that most seniors—who are of age and can drink legally—live off campus and therefore can’t set a good example on-campus.

2. *Drinking off-campus and behind closed doors:* Driven both by the inertia of the current social scene, much of which now resides off-campus, and a desire to avoid disciplinary action, many students feel the need to drink behind closed doors or off-campus. This behavior directly leads to extremely unsafe behavior such as “pregaming” (consuming large amounts of alcohol before going to a club, bar or party) and drunk driving. This also contributes to tensions between Duke and members of the surrounding Durham community who regularly interact with intoxicated students—this fact also negatively impacts the public image of Duke students and Duke University. This will be more extensively discussed in the following section evaluating the current alcohol regime, but we feel that it is important to shift the social scene away from bars that profit from heavy drinking and student rooms that provide little entertainment except alcohol towards on-campus, inclusive events that are not focused on alcohol.

3. *The focus of the Duke social scene on alcohol:* The single most significant contributor to irresponsible drinking by Duke students is the Duke social scene’s focus on alcohol. Alcohol is generally the main or only attraction at well-attended events, which are often held at venues dedicated to serving alcohol. Students move from crowded room to crowded room, drinking at each stop along the way, or “pregame” prior to going clubbing or barhopping. Because students feel limited in their ability to openly consume alcohol, parties become excuses to drink and massive amounts of alcohol are required to throw a successful party. Administrative efforts to target alcohol consumption have associated “no drinking” with “no fun,” and as a result students assume the contra positive—that “fun” means “drinking.” Since the social scene is

predominately based on alcohol-fueled parties, peer pressure encourages drinking and it becomes required for fitting-in to the mainstream Duke culture. This is especially a problem for first-year students who are making new friends and trying to acquaint themselves to a new environment.

We recognize that not all parties are like this, and as we discussed in the Working Group, students in historically Black fraternities drink far less than students in other fraternities and their parties are less focused on alcohol. One member of a Black fraternity said of his fraternity's parties "that people don't come to drink, but rather to dance and socialize; drinking is not the purpose, the end all be all." NPHC Sororities and Black Fraternities do not feature alcohol at official functions, and instead relegate alcohol consumption to "after-parties." At most other parties, however, alcohol is the main attraction, and consequently partygoers drink much more than they would in other situations.

The lack of additional appealing social outlets that do not focus on drinking exacerbates the problem, and students who seek social outlets on a Thursday or Friday night are often directed to alcohol-focused events because there of the perception that nothing else worthwhile is happening. Recreational facilities close early on Friday and Saturday nights, and many on-campus stores and restaurants close fairly early. Administratively driven "alcohol-free" programming has absolutely no appeal to students, and other events that might draw students away from parties are badly advertised, not funded well enough to be appealing, or dismissed as "alcohol-free." A student, sitting in their room or apartment on a Friday or Saturday night, has few alternatives to going out partying or doing something that involves high-risk drinking if s/he wishes to be social. This situation represents a failure of student groups to plan inclusive and creative events, and a failure of the administration to provide the resources for such events and to tailor policies that allow them to happen on-campus.

### Efficacy of the Current Regime

Duke has demonstrated a startling inability to control or curtail student drinking through the punitive or other measures currently in use. Several of us even feel that the large increases in the number of students receiving amnesty from disciplinary action and being transported to the emergency room are the direct result of the unsafe situations created by increased alcohol policy enforcement. Although the data do not conclusively endorse this sentiment, it is clear that the regime put in place steadily over the past 5-7 years has not resulted in safer behavior by students or decreased alcohol consumption. We believe this is largely because administrative actions have not focused on diversifying the social scene, but instead have targeted alcohol itself under the guise of promoting student safety—with effects that have been indisputably negligible and arguably counterproductive. Here, we consider main elements of the current regime and evaluate their effectiveness:

1. *Punitive measures & restrictions on consumption/possession*: Restrictions on and increased penalties for the possession and consumption of alcohol have not had a tangible impact on student alcohol consumption and have arguably created many negative side effects. The best example of where policies designed to limit the consumption or possession of alcohol have failed to actually do so is East Campus, where no one is permitted to possess any alcohol of any kind. Enforcement is consistent and there is almost constant supervision by RAs and RCs, who make

rounds at night and confiscate alcohol and document violations of the alcohol policy. Despite this enforcement, however, freshmen are the most dangerous drinkers on Duke's campus (as shown by Dean Bryan and Dr. Kulley's data), and much of their drinking still manages to occur on East Campus behind closed doors. The situation on East Campus exists despite the best efforts of the administration, not because of lax enforcement. We are not suggesting that East Campus be made "wet" again, but it is a clear example where the banning of alcohol consumption and stringent enforcement of policies has not resulted in safer behavior or decreased drinking.

On West Campus, event registration policies (party monitors, inspections, etc), increased enforcement of fire codes, and limitations on kegs and alcohol distribution have "displaced" students' drinking. Where freshmen and upper-class students used to party on West Campus, the increasing trend is towards off-campus parties, as noted by Dean Bryan. Fraternities shuttle students to off-campus houses, or students walk, drive or take cabs to off-campus bars and clubs. Most of the problems caused by Duke students in neighborhoods surrounding East Campus and in other areas of Durham are associated with students moving to and from off-campus parties, and this movement off-campus has brought drunk driving, angry neighbors and other dangers into the student social scene—which is almost completely outside the reach of the University. While restrictive policies on East Campus and West Campus have proven effective in moving student drinking, it has not been established that they have encouraged safer behavior by students, and their numerous negative side effects are well documented.

When policy does have to be enforced, Resident Assistants are often in the best position to do that. More than any other member of the residence hall staff, they are in direct contact with students and can act as both mentors and enforcers of policy. This dual role, while difficult to balance, mirrors the culture that we ultimately wish to create within Duke—where students take responsibility for enforcing community expectations. As students themselves, they have a better idea than others as to what it is to be a Duke student, and their ability to enforce rules and impart values on their residents stems both from their ability to issue disciplinary sanctions and their status as a peer of their residents. RAs are most effective when they have personal relationships with their residents, so that when they do enforce policy, it is not coming from a distant, unknown person, but a friend and peer who is respected and understood.

2. *"Alcohol-Free" programming and efforts to create alternative social outlets:* While the most promising efforts undertaken by the administration have involved creating and supporting alternative social outlets, these efforts have been horribly executed and thus the events garnered very poor attendance and did not succeed in displacing high-risk alcohol consumption. These events were failures largely because they were not conceived of or driven by students, and as a result they had absolutely no appeal. These events did not have to be completely dry in order to serve their purpose; an event that involved "safe" alcohol consumption would be far more successful in drawing students away from high-risk situations and serving the ultimate goal of the "alcohol-free" events of reducing high-risk drinking. We will discuss alternative social events further in the next section.

Also falling into this category of efforts are larger-scale, long-term efforts to shape the undergraduate experience. The West Campus Plaza, which was completed in August of 2006,

has so far proved successful as a venue for positive, student-run social events. There are programming events scheduled every day in September as part of the Plaza kickoff month, and such a wide variety of programming has been a very positive addition to the Duke campus. It remains to be seen, however, whether this can be sustained and whether it will have a long-lasting impact on the Duke social scene. Although the plaza cost a relatively hefty \$10,000,000 and is aimed at providing a space for additional programming and events to occur, a comparable investment has not been put into programming the events themselves.

### Recommendations of our own

The ultimate purpose of the Campus Culture Initiative and the Alcohol Working Group is to issue recommendations on how Duke might go about bringing positive changes to Duke's campus culture, specifically as they relate to alcohol. Here, we offer recommendations based on our perception of what has worked in the past and what we believe would influence student behavior. As stated previously, the difficulties that Duke has experienced with student alcohol consumption are not the product of poor policing, bad policy or incorrigible college students; they are the organic result of a social scene that—due to a variety of deficiencies in administration policy and student organizations—has little variety to offer. This situation requires a cohesive response that focuses primarily on adding variety to the social scene and shifting the focus away from alcohol. We acknowledge that an enforcement regime has a role to play, but this regime must be modified, particularly in the ways in which students are involved in the process.

*1. Carefully Consider Policy Enforcement and Make RAs and Faculty the Basis of Enforcement & the Adult Presence in the Residence Halls:* Enforcement of the alcohol policies and attempts to develop a sense of community values will be much more effective if they are driven by students and resident assistants (who are themselves, students), than by Residence Coordinators and other administrators. RAs have greater credibility in their interactions with students than other housing and disciplinary personnel. They will be particularly effective at addressing concerns relating to the high-risk freshmen population. However, if RAs are to be the centerpiece of alcohol enforcement—which we believe they should be—they will have to be much more carefully selected. Although RAs have to reapply for their position every year, RLHS is often very reluctant to terminate RAs after a single year of employment, even if their performance is unsatisfactory. Returning RAs should not have such an advantage over first-time RAs, and since an RA's past record is an excellent indicator of their future performance, it should factor heavily into their re-application for the position. We also believe that there needs to be a serious inquiry into the characteristics that define a desirable RA and whether the application process adequately identifies candidates who exhibit those characteristics.

We also recommend that the adult presence of the RCs be augmented by an increased faculty presence. Much of the CCI steering committee's discussions have focused on integrating the Community Standard and other aspects of academic life into residential life, and an increased faculty presence is an excellent way to do that. The RCs are not part of students' academic lives, yet professors are. Faculty members are the ultimate resource available to students; they function as role models and mentors, and they are, from the students' perspectives, the most highly regarded group of individuals on campus. Students who have significant problems with alcohol

will benefit from professors' credible guidance, and the broader sector of the student body who consume alcohol more moderately will benefit from the example set by their resident professors. RCs should not, in any instance, be considered a viable substitute for significant faculty participation. Faculty would not have to take an active role in the enforcement and disciplinary processes, but their presence and engagement with students has significant potential to set a positive example and deter students from misbehaving. Simply put, most students would not want to be seen inebriated or otherwise misbehaving by a faculty member they know and respect.

Beyond student- and faculty-driven initiatives, administratively driven regulations do have a role to play in limiting alcohol abuse by students, but in instituting them it is important to consider the previously discussed distinction that students make between self-destructive behavior and behavior destructive to others. We therefore believe that the judicial process should punish students who harm others harshly, but not those who simply harm themselves. In announcing a policy designed to protect students from one another, the "external" consequences of a behavior that the policy would combat should be emphasized to the students. Should the administration seek to protect individual students from themselves, the regulations associated with that obligation will have far more impact if they are perceived as honest and reasonable, and careful consideration of the psychological landscape of students is considered. Regardless of the justification of an individual policy, we suggest that it be announced by individuals who have a close relationship with or who have garnered the respect of students (RAs, perhaps some RCs, faculty or perhaps President Brodhead)—not administrators who students have a previously established, combative relationship with.

2. *Model the Social Scene After Existing, Ideal Events:* Based on our experience as participants in the Duke "social scene," we have identified several events that have taken place on- and off-campus that we believe should serve as models for alcohol consumption and social interaction at Duke:

- The Old Duke Party – This party is thrown in Keohane Quad by Campus Council with support from the Duke University Union. Alcohol is distributed from University Kegs, and the bartenders card students before serving them. Bands play constantly; free food is provided; and vendors set up booths all around the party area. This event is always well attended, and we feel that the consumption of alcohol that takes place here is responsible and moderated.
- The Brodhead Ball – This party is thrown in Wilson Gym during Homecoming by the Duke Alumni association. It involves music, performances by student groups, an appearance by the President and an open bar with beer and wine. Both students and alumni mingle throughout the night. The presence of alumni and university officials, in addition to regulated alcohol distribution, prevent student over-consumption, and the students enjoy the opportunity to mingle with older individuals in the Duke community.
- Jazz at the Mary Lou Williams Center – A jazz band booked by the Duke University Union plays in the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture every Wednesday night, and alcohol is served on points. Students mingle during breaks in the music, and the center is nearly always filled to capacity. We feel that these events in particular mix responsible drinking, social interaction and cultural experiences in a way that is worthy of note. *We are extremely*

*concerned, however, that Student Affairs and the Mary Lou Williams Center recently rescinded some of their financial support for this event. The result of this action is that Jazz events with alcohol in the Mary Lou will occur less frequently in the fall 2006 semester and some of the events must be funded by student activity money, which means less funding is available for other on-campus programming. This is an ideal event and, indeed, the last one currently hosted on-campus that should be short of funds and, if anything, should occur more frequently than once a week.*

- E-Kegs/E-Ball – These events are thrown by the Pratt School of Engineering and promote student/faculty interaction over beer. This is an ideal atmosphere in which to bridge the gap between academic life and establish lasting personal relationships between students and faculty. Engineering Student Government funds these events and they have the personal support of Dean Kristina Johnson.
- Pikes of the Caribbean – This event is hosted by Pi Kappa Alpha, but they can only afford to do so every three years. It features an elaborate, two-story tall pirate ship connected to the PiKa dormitory. The rest of the dorm is decorated in buccaneer fashion, and students don costumes to attend the party. There was such a significant turnout for the party that there was insufficient alcohol for students to get too intoxicated.
- Various Fraternity and Sorority Semi-Formals – With the obvious caveat that these events vary greatly among different Greek organization, semi-formals generally involve members dressing up and bringing dates for a night including dinner, dancing and (yes) the consumption of alcohol. The presence of dates, food and other activities, however, shift the focus of the events away from alcohol, and with limited exceptions, they are not problematic.
- Awaaz and Lunar New Year – These cultural shows, put on by Diya and the Asian Students Association, respectively, are completely student-run and feature performances by both students and administrators. They feature free food beforehand, do not include any alcohol, and attended by a significant portion of the student body. Awaaz, for example, has to be performed multiple times because there is more student interest than there is room in Paige.
- Nasher Gala Events – These events, put on in the Nasher Museum of Art, generally feature controlled alcohol distribution, food and some form of entertainment. They are extremely popular among undergraduates and, indeed, many take the time to dress up for them. The Nasher Galas also are a very effective way to engage students with the arts on-campus because students peruse the exhibits during the parties.

The common theme among these events is that there is some form of quality, student-selected or student-performed entertainment that is, in itself, a draw. They may or may not provide alcohol (and many regulate distribution), but to our knowledge, none of these events (although we can't speak for every single fraternity/sorority semi-formal) resulted in any major incidents requiring medical intervention, and they should be considered models for the "ideal" Duke social scene.

*3. Provide On-Campus Outlets for Legal Drinking and Perhaps Shift to a "Pay-Per-Drink" system:* The closing of the Hideaway in 2001 was a major blow to the Duke social scene, and we

strongly recommend bringing back an on-campus bar and/or increasing the number of liquor-licensed establishments on campus. Obviously, this solution is directed at students who are of age, but it will be very effective in bringing some of the social scene back to the University. Additional on-campus outlets for legal drinking could also bring seniors, who have lived off-campus in steadily increasing numbers, back on campus. Older students are an important part of inculcating a responsible drinking culture among younger undergraduates, but currently most on-campus events featuring alcohol mainly attract freshmen and sophomores. Bringing back seniors should be a prominent consideration as Student Affairs plans the renovation and expansion of student spaces in the West Union, Bryan Center, residence halls, and other areas of the campus.

In addition, some of the alcohol subcommittee's discussions have focused on the idea of creating a "pay-per-drink" system where students must pay for each drink they consume. A "pay-per-drink" system would increase the marginal cost of consuming alcohol, and thus provide an incentive for students to consume less alcohol than they would if it were free. Selling alcohol requires a liquor license, however, and thus the desire of some on the committee to shift alcohol consumption at social events towards a "pay-per-drink" system is further justification for creating more spaces on-campus that are liquor-licensed—either by adding (a) bar(s) or procuring liquor licenses for some commons/social spaces. Although the space occupied by the Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture is no longer a bar or restaurant, it does have a liquor license because it used to house the Oak Room. The MLWC liquor license allows alcohol to be sold at the weekly jazz events, which are very positive events that serve as a model for both alcohol consumption and social interaction. There is not currently, however, enough liquor-licensed space on campus to accommodate most major social events and institute a "pay-per-drink" system.

*4. Concentrate Funding to and Provide Better Support for Student Organizations:* Student-organized and student-driven events are more likely than anything else to draw students away from the alcohol-fueled parties that currently define the social scene. Although the Duke Alumni Association manages to throw parties that are extremely well attended by students, they are alone in their consistent success. In almost all respects, the students themselves are the best judges of what type of events and programming will attract other students. There are numerous ways in which resources can be channeled into student groups so that they can plan large-scale, inclusive events (that may or may not involve alcohol) that will not leave students with the choice between boredom/social isolation and excessive consumption of alcohol.

A simple and effective way to increase the number and quality of on-campus events is to augment the programming funds available to student groups, particularly organizations that already put on events that attract attendees from outside of the organization. Campus Council and the Duke University Union have put on successful, large-scale events that have attracted large numbers of students, but those events only occur several times throughout the year. If the Union and CC were given more resources, they would be able to draw more big-name acts that could easily displace other dangerous activities. They could also develop more consistent sources of entertainment rather than concentrating their funding on several blowout weekends. We were particularly encouraged by DUU's Franz Ferdinand and Death Cab for Cutie concert, which took place in Cameron and sold out—mostly to students. We are particularly discouraged, however, that it was the first time in three years that Cameron has been used for a concert, and hope that

the Duke Union, with the support of Event Management and Student Affairs, will continue to host large-scale programming in Cameron or perhaps even Wallace Wade.

In addition to the large-scale events we have highlighted, a larger number of smaller-scale events put on by DSG-sponsored student groups could have a similar effect on student social life. Last year, DSG was able to fulfill only about half of student organizations' requests for funding to put on events, and groups have been forced to seek (with varying levels of success) additional funding from the administration, outside sources, or individual students. It is unfortunate, given the \$10 million spent on the plaza and the untold sums Student Affairs expends attempting to ward off adverse the effects of on-campus alcohol consumption, that only \$1.2 million in student activity fees is available for the types of events that would be the most likely to displace the unsafe consumption of alcohol and significantly improve the undergraduate experience at Duke.

*5. Engage the Greek Community in Shifting the Focus and Gender Dynamics of its On-Campus Events:* Much of our discussion has focused on "typical frat parties," which have become emblems of the problematic drinking culture at Duke. There is no form that fraternity parties must necessarily assume, however, only the form that they currently assume. Fraternities have significant social presence on campus, and engaging Greek organizations rather than dismissing them on face is bound to be a more productive enterprise. To this end, we recommend both giving fraternities greater latitude with regard to the venues in which they host parties and establishing a programming fund specifically for fraternity party expenses not related to alcohol—recommendations which extend by analogy to selective living groups.

In speaking to the programming heads of various organizations on campus, a common theme was that fraternities and other groups only spend money on alcohol for their events because alcohol is the only thing required to draw people to the event. If fraternities and selective living groups could provide their own funds for alcohol but receive outside funds for bands, speakers, food, decorations and other programming from a separate body with significant resources, they would not be faced with the difficult tradeoff wherein any money spent on entertainment cuts directly into their ability to provide enough alcohol for a large number of students. One fraternity in particular floated the idea of having either a home-run derby with the baseball team or a slam dunk contest with the basketball team on central, but the logistics and costs of renting the spaces and minimal equipment needed, in conjunction with the costs of and restrictions on providing a moderate amount of alcohol anywhere other than section, are prohibitive. We feel that this kind of creativity in fraternity programming could easily be supported by the university and has the potential to redirect the Duke drinking culture. There is no inherent form of fraternity events, only logical tendencies given their extant constraints.

In addition to diversifying options at on-campus fraternity parties, it would also be valuable to increase the diversity of the Greek organizations throwing events on-campus. Equalizing the gender dynamics of Greek, on-campus parties (having sororities throw some of them) would provide and add variety to the on-campus social scene women as a group greater social independence. Additional on-campus venues that serve alcohol or on-campus spaces to host social events would allow sororities to host parties and bring greater gender diversity to on-campus events. In the long-term, it would be well worth examining the prospects of giving sororities on-campus housing or encouraging the development of more coed living groups. In the

short term, viable, multi-purpose spaces on campus capable of hosting on-campus parties should be provided so that sororities, among other groups, can use them to positively contribute to the social environment.

*6. Use Alcohol as a Means to Shift the Social Scene:* It is perhaps an awkward observation given its context, but alcohol is far more effective than nearly anything else at drawing students to an event. Although this has been of concern to the administration, it gives policymakers an obvious tool for quietly shifting the social scene. Lectures by faculty, presentations, seminars, performances of all kinds and other cultural events with significant educational or social value could be held on weekends, and they would be attended by large numbers of students if a comparatively small amount of alcohol were provided or if they were hosted in venues that made a BYOB system viable. Many of the very successful events that we highlighted previously feature controlled alcohol distribution, and those events would not be as well attended if they were completely dry.

To this end, we are particularly pleased at the arrangement worked out by Student Affairs and the office of the Executive Vice President to pay for bartenders for keg events run by student organizations. Keg beer distributed by university-employed bartenders is as close to an “ideal” situation for on-campus alcohol consumption as is possible, and we are pleased that it is no longer cost-prohibitive. It is important, however, that student organizations take full advantage of this policy and that it is continued beyond just this year. One current obstacle is that Student Activity Fee money cannot be spent on alcohol. In light of this, it is important that DSG and Campus Council continue to collaborate in the hopes of working out a system that can fund the kegs themselves. Currently, DSG-funded organizations that wish to bring alcohol to an event must secure outside funding to do so.

*7. Crowd Out Students’ Time with Other Activities:* Although we stringently oppose any proposal to increase the academic workload of a student or otherwise make students “work” more, alternative activities not meant to compete directly with parties and alcohol consumption may help reduce drinking on all fronts. These activities must not serve to increase stress levels among students, otherwise they would likely lead to significant increases in alcohol consumption, or other forms of self-medication.

Assuming that students spend a fixed amount of time on academics and a subordinate amount of time on “extracurricular” activities (a supposition that is corroborated by disciplinary statistics during exam week), one’s “free” time that would be spent drinking could be shifted to other extracurricular activities such as intramural/club sports, student groups, or other activities. Students have pressed athletics, Student Affairs and DSG for, among other things, a climbing wall to be built inside Wilson Gym to allow for students to climb on-campus. In addition, intramural and club sports could be given more support, especially considering the disparity between the financial support of varsity sports and club sports. Support to DSG-funded student groups could also be increased, allowing them to provide more non-alcohol programming or activities for their members. A number of more creative suggestions have also been considered—a bowling alley, mini golf course, ice rink, or video arcade, for example—anything that students would enjoy that could detract from time spent drinking. Extending the hours of on-campus eateries, recreational facilities and other establishments would also improve the situation, and

allow those establishments to compete with parties for students' time during weekend nights, when most excessive drinking occurs. There should be more than one 24-hour dining establishment, and Wilson Gym should not close two hours early on Friday and Saturday night.

In line with extending the hours of existing establishments, which makes use of pre-existing resources, events need to be better advertised in order that students actually know what is happening around campus and in Durham. An important project that would significantly improve student awareness of events is the Duke News/OIT Calendar project that is currently being developed. The new calendar would provide better means of inputting and retrieving data so that students and departments use it, and allow users to filter data based on their preferences so they are not "overloaded" with superfluous data. It is important that this project receive significant institutional support so that, among many other reasons, students don't go drinking because of a lack of knowledge about alternative events.

### Conclusion

Here, we have attempted to assess the current "problem" of alcohol consumption at Duke University, evaluated efforts to address it, and listed potential courses of action that would de-emphasize binge drinking and other dangerous behavior. We recognize that some of what we propose involves major changes in how Student Affairs or other parts of the University operate, but we feel that the university should objectively consider the policy changes that would best accomplish our collective goals of increasing student safety and changing the undergraduate drinking culture with institutional inertia as a secondary concern. The current moment in Duke's institutional history offers a unique opportunity to rearticulate and reformulate Duke's values in its social scene. The students are particularly receptive to diversifying the drinking culture, though they have ultimately been open to this possibility for some time.

By the same token, the students fear brash administrative efforts, motivated by the desire to appear responsive to any number of audiences, that could jeopardize the foundations of Duke's student culture. This student culture, incidentally, does not rest upon bad beer and cheap liquor; It is not part of some grand design of the student multitude to drink heavily confining dorm rooms every weekend. To whatever extent this reflects the current Duke social scene, it is the organic product of the current regulatory and organizational regime. In the end, if we can change the undergraduate drinking culture, it will be because we have provided students a variety of social environments in which to explore the social ideal of Duke student life.

Student safety and improved publicity will follow this change, not precede it. Despite this broad mandate, many of our recommendations are non-controversial. Our suggestions to allow more student input into the policies that govern us, improve recreational facilities, increase funding for student activities and bring more faculty presence into Student Affairs are all positive steps that should be considered regardless of the assessment of the student drinking "problem." From our perspective as students, these are the most promising ways to bring about positive cultural change within the institution of the university, and we sincerely hope that the lacrosse incident and ensuing Campus Culture Initiative will provide the impetus to put many of our suggestions in place.