

14 August 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Education

From: Don Burnett, Interim President, University of Idaho, and
2013-14 Chair, Council of Higher Education Presidents

RE: Alcohol and Substance Abuse Safety Action Plans

The Council of Higher Education Presidents recommends that the State Board consider adopting a policy authorizing and directing each of Idaho's four-year postsecondary education institutions to develop, and present to the Board for approval, an alcohol and substance abuse safety action plan that is adapted to each institution's particular circumstances and that provides safety measures such as (without limitation):

- Delivering mandatory, interactive education to all incoming students on risks and issues of alcohol and substance abuse -- including encouragement of, and mechanisms for, voluntary disclosure of past history and self-referral for counseling.
- Establishing clear policies for referral to law enforcement of under-age drinking and other alcohol or substance-related behaviors that occur on campus and are violations of law.
- Extending (where not already extended), and applying, the institution's code of student conduct to student behavior off campus, and establishing collaborative relations with law enforcement agencies regarding investigations and appropriate sharing of information.
- Furnishing detailed, institution-specific information to parents or guardians on alcohol and substance abuse policies, and -- to the full extent allowed by law -- providing notification to parents or guardians of any serious or repeated violation of the alcohol or substance abuse provisions of the code of student conduct by their sons or daughters under the age of 21 unless the institution determines, in exceptional cases, that family circumstances militate against such notification.
- Creating -- and furnishing education to all students, staff, and faculty regarding -- programs for bystander intervention and assistance whenever alcohol or substance abuse is observed on or off campus.
- Prescribing standards of conduct at "tailgating" and other campus social events where alcohol is expected to be available, and communicating those standards to campus visitors.

- Establishing collaborative relations with nearby hospital(s) and urgent care facilities for professional evaluations and referrals (to the full extent allowed by law) of students who receive care or treatment for injuries and conditions related to alcohol or substance abuse.
- Affording students the opportunity to live in “dry” residence halls on campus and, in other residence halls, regulating the proximity of rooms and floors occupied by under-age students to the rooms and floors occupied by students who are of age to possess alcohol.
- Creating, in consultation with national and campus leaders of “Greek life” organizations, frameworks for institutional recognition of such organizations as set forth in memoranda of understanding that contain specific expectations regarding alcohol and substance abuse safety practices; that require such organizations to secure institutional permits for events at which alcohol will be available; and that provide sanctions for noncompliance with these stated expectations (e.g., withdrawal of institutional recognition, resulting in preclusion of on-campus recruitment of students and in prohibition against utilizing institutional facilities or communication systems to recruit students).
- Reporting, at such times as the State Board may determine, on the effectiveness of the institution’s safety action plan and on the collaborative development, with sister institutions in Idaho, of “best practices” to address ongoing alcohol and substance abuse issues.