

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

September 24, 2009



Eric Weissmann  
President, Students' Association  
University of Rochester

Dear Eric,

In recent weeks, there has been much made of actual and perceived changes to the alcohol policy in the College. I appreciate your efforts in keeping me abreast of these concerns, and for recommending ways by which I might address them. After careful consideration of many alternatives, I have decided to address the issues by attempting to engage as many students as I can in small group meetings. To that end, I will be making myself (and other members of the Office of the Dean of Students staff, as possible) available during group discussions and individual meetings.

This effort is an attempt to provide time for all interested students to give me their perspectives and opinions and for me to answer their questions and to provide information. In doing so, I have provided various dates and times so that students can discuss the issue at a time convenient for them without interfering with their studies or other commitments. Should these times prove insufficient, I will clear more times on my calendar to continue the discussions in future weeks.

To be clear: there were some actual changes to policies relating to alcohol and the disciplinary system in general. There was also an effort to consolidate all policies related to alcohol and to clarify them so that they would be more coherent and easier to locate. These decisions were made by the Standing Committee on Alcohol Policy and Education—a group formed last year which was comprised of a number of staff, faculty, and students—and the changes were approved by myself and others for implementation this fall. I believe that two principal issues are questions of timing for the decisions and questions of representation by the student body. I am certainly willing to discuss both of these issues, as well as others, at these meetings.

To talk about these policies and the processes through which they were (and are) implemented, I am providing the following dates and times for any interested undergraduate students to speak with me. In an effort to allow time for all voices to be heard, attendance at these meetings will be limited to up to 15 students at a time. If the number of meetings proves to be insufficient to allow room for each student who wants to meet, I will offer more meeting times in the future.

| <u>Date</u>             | <u>Time</u>              | <u>Location</u>    |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Friday, September 25    | 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.   | Wilson Commons 503 |
| Saturday, September 26  | 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. | Wilson Commons 507 |
| Saturday, September 26  | 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.  | Wilson Commons 507 |
| Monday, September 28    | 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.   | Wilson Commons 507 |
| Tuesday, September 29   | 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.   | Wilson Commons 507 |
| Wednesday, September 30 | 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.   | Wilson Commons 507 |
| Thursday, October 1     | 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.   | Wilson Commons 507 |
| Thursday, October 1     | 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.   | Wilson Commons 507 |

Eric, it is my hope that students wanting to engage in a discussion about the alcohol policy and the policy formation process attend one of the meetings above. Since attendance is limited for each session, students wanting to attend should call the Office of the Dean of Students at 275-4085 to sign up for the time of their choice.

Thank you again for your efforts to represent the students in this regard. Please feel free to forward this information to the undergraduate population as you best see fit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Burns".

Matthew Burns  
Dean of Students