

**Alcohol Coalition Committee
2008-2009 Final Report**

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

1. Introduction: 2008 Strategic Plan Review

- 1.1 Background and Charge of the ACC
- 1.2 Unique Aspects of Princeton
- 1.3 Strategic Plan Recommendations
- 1.4 Organization of Report

2. Scope, Organization, and Approach of the ACC 2008-2009

- 2.1 Scope
- 2.2 Organization
 - 2.2.1 Membership
 - 2.2.2 Meetings
- 2.3 Approach
 - 2.3.1 Inclusive Membership
 - 2.3.2 Engagement of the Campus Community and Communication with Stakeholders
 - 2.3.3 Transparent Process
 - 2.3.4 Recommendations to Policy Owners
 - 2.3.5 Student Involvement

3. Accomplishments and Recommended Next Steps

- 3.1 Sustainability
- 3.2 Data and Communications
- 3.3 Fall Workshop
- 3.4 Spring Seminar
- 3.5 Strategic Areas and Working Groups
 - 3.5.1 Education
 - 3.5.2 Party Registration
 - 3.5.3 Structures and Activities

4. Proposed Efforts for 2009-2010

- 4.1 Working Groups
- 4.2 Alcohol Coalition Committee Priorities

Executive Summary

The Alcohol Coalition Committee began its second year with a course charted by the strategic plan created during 2007-2008. The aim was to address high-risk drinking from a strategic, versus tactical, standpoint, organizing campus-wide working groups and executive teams comprising students, faculty, and staff to address five strategic areas: education; policies, procedures, and discipline; activities, programs, and events; structures and environment; and communication and partnerships.

The working groups and their accomplishments included:

Education: The group reviewed and supported continuing the current online education course, AlcoholEdu for College, for incoming freshmen with information specific to Princeton. It also reviewed data from a pilot workshop on social scene decision-making that was tested last fall in two colleges and recommended that it be added to the orientation schedule for all freshmen this fall.

Party Registration: The group's recommendation for a party registration process for groups of "of-age" students was implemented in the spring.

Structures and Activities: The group made recommendations regarding the provision of food and non-alcoholic beverages at events as well as alternative activities and ways to promote them.

The executive teams and their accomplishments included:

Fall Workshop: The team led a three-hour workshop in December on alcohol policy and enforcement that was attended by more than 100 members of the University community.

Spring Seminar: The team led a two-day seminar in April on catalyzing a culture change that attracted 130 participants from 17 schools.

Through the working groups, workshop, seminar, stakeholder meetings, and regular communication, the 2008-2009 ACC established itself as a reliable initiative that values and encourages student input and invites students, faculty, and staff to collaboratively address high-risk drinking on campus.

The ACC is committed to sustaining the effort to address high-risk drinking. Using information gathered from stakeholder meetings and working group, workshop, and seminar discussions, the ACC recommends five working groups for 2009-2010:

- Education
- Mixed Aged Gatherings
- Alcohol Policy
- Data
- Dispelling Myths

2008 Strategic Plan Review

1. Introduction

High-risk drinking at colleges and universities, including Princeton University, is an important and complex issue. Most institutions of higher education are engaged in efforts to address this issue. Specific efforts vary widely, but recent trends have moved toward comprehensive approaches that broadly address the campus and community environment.

1.1 Background and Charge of the ACC

In the fall of 2007, the Healthier Princeton Advisory Board appointed a “Core Group” of students, faculty, and staff to frame the issue of excessive alcohol use on campus for a subsequent committee to prepare a strategic plan for moving forward in dealing with this issue. As recommended by the Core Group, in December 2007 the advisory board created the Alcohol Coalition Committee (ACC) comprising students, faculty, and staff. The ACC was charged by the Healthier Princeton Advisory Board with producing a strategic plan to address high-risk drinking among undergraduates. The plan was presented in May 2008 and, upon approval, the ACC was commissioned under the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life.

1.2 Unique Aspects of Princeton

High-risk drinking is often affected by the institution’s culture, its location, its traditional approach to alcohol use, and state law.

Princeton is a demanding school, both academically and socially. Students feel especially high pressure to succeed, whether in the classroom or in social settings, and this pressure is frequently linked to high-risk drinking. The academic and the social are inextricably intertwined, as evidenced by the common student mantra, “Work hard, play hard.” Precisely because students invest themselves so much in their studies, they admit to having relatively little time to socialize. Frequently, as a result, they seek to make that social time—and their consumption of alcohol—all the more intense.

The Princeton undergraduate experience is framed by the two- and four-year colleges, which provide a rigorous intellectual environment and a broad array of social, religious, athletic, service, student organization, and affiliation opportunities. We have a fully residential campus that has a historic and storied relationship with eating clubs, which offer both dining and social opportunities for their members and guests. Students rarely go off campus to drink, rarely drive cars, and usually rely on the campus and eating club infrastructure for social activities. Both high-risk and socially responsible drinking primarily takes place on campus and in the eating clubs.

1.3 Strategic Plan Recommendations

The strategic plan offered a wide range of ideas, some short term and some long term, some requiring minimal resources and some requiring extensive resources, and some very concrete and some less well-defined. To address the complex issue of high-risk drinking, the ACC recognized the importance of a sustained effort that is broad and strategic, inclusive of constituents across the University, and informed by data.

The following were the primary recommendations of the strategic plan:

- **Sustainability:** The strategic plan proposed creating a standing body comprising students, faculty, and staff to coordinate all efforts to address high-risk drinking across the University. Working groups, also comprising students, faculty, and staff, would study in detail the development and implementation of specific initiatives in order to inform the department or office that would ultimately be responsible for the particular initiative.
- **Strategic Areas:** Several strategic areas emerged as having significant potential impact on the culture of high-risk drinking. The areas identified were: education; policies, procedures, and discipline; activities, programs, and events; structures and environment; and communication and partnerships.
- **Data:** Data on various aspects of high-risk drinking are important for a number of reasons, including delineating the scope and nature of the issue; creating awareness and engagement; providing direction for decision-making and initiatives; and assessing and quantifying progress through concrete metrics.

1.4 Organization of Report

Each working group and executive team completed a final report that has informed this document. The executive summaries of each report may be found on the ACC website (<http://www.princeton.edu/acc>). The remainder of this report is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the scope, organization, and approach of the 2008-2009 ACC. Section 3 discusses the successes to date, and section 4 presents the proposed efforts for 2009-2010.

2. Scope, Organization, and Approach of the ACC 2008-2009

2.1 Scope

The ACC affirmed the operational definition of high-risk drinking: *Anytime the health, well-being, or safety of the individual drinking or others is compromised, or community standards are compromised.*

Following a series of discussions of the various topics and themes that emerged from the strategic plan, the 2008-2009 ACC prioritized its agenda and established three working groups and two executive teams.

Working groups:

- **Education:** to review and strengthen Princeton University's alcohol education strategy for new students.
- **Party Registration:** to investigate, review, and make suggestions for implementing a party registration policy for "of-age" student parties.
- **Structures and Activities:** to address pre-gaming by creating strong partnerships with campus offices, departments, and organizations to support programs, events, and other activities that can help counter a pre-gaming culture.

Executive teams:

- Fall Workshop: to discuss the intersection between alcohol policies, enforcement, and discipline.
- Spring Seminar: with colleagues from other schools, to discuss best practices and the culture of addressing high-risk drinking on our campuses

2.2. Organization

2.2.1 Membership

The Alcohol Coalition Committee is sponsored by the Vice President for Campus Life, Janet Dickerson. The committee is co-chaired by Amy Campbell, director of campus life initiatives; Elizabeth Dilday '09 co-chaired from September through December 2008 and Chris Chandler '10 is co-chairing from January 2009 through December 2009.

2008-2009 Membership

Co-chairs

Amy Campbell, director, campus life initiatives, Office of the Vice President for Campus life
Elizabeth Dilday '09 (September 2008 - December 2008)
Chris Chandler '10 (January 2009 - December 2009)

Undergraduate Students

Giovanna Campagna '10	Sam Dorison '11	Megan Murley '10
Juan Candela '10	Elizabeth Dilday '09	Agatha Offorjebe '09
Jacob Candelaria '10	Laurie Frey '09	Alyssa Pehmoeller '12
Matt Care '10	Kate Gilman '09	Sara Peters '11
Chris Chandler '10	Christina Hummel '11	Christine Prifti '10
Helen Chen '11	Reilly Kiernan '10	Rosemary Raymond-Sidel '12
Mike Coolbaugh '10	Andrew Lu '12	Harry Schiff '10
Daniel Dickerson '10	Cole Morris '10	

Faculty

Maggie Browning, Professor of Linguistics, Master of Wilson College
Sanjeev Kulkarni, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Master of Butler College
Michael Lemonick, Lecturer in Astrophysical Sciences

Staff

Gina Abrams, UHS	Rebecca Graves-Bayazitogulo, Whitman
Drew Adair, Rockefeller	Hilary Herbold, ODUS
Jim Barlow '91, Athletics	Tori Jueds, ODUS
Amy Campbell, Campus Life	Matt Kinsey '98, EVP
Chuck Davall, Public Safety	Matthew Lazen, Butler
Janet Finnie '84, UHS	Steve Lestition, Mathey
Matt Frawley, Mathey	Bill Tierney, Athletics

Ruth Stevens, Communications
Karen Woodbridge, Community and Regional Affairs

2.2.2 Meetings

The ACC met bi-weekly for most of the first semester and once a month during the second semester. This schedule complemented the meeting schedule of the working groups and executive teams. In addition to reviewing the efforts of the working groups and providing feedback, the ACC heard presentations on:

- Princeton-specific alcohol data
- Conversations between Princeton Borough and the University
- Proposals pending before the New Jersey legislature regarding a “Good Samaritan” policy and underage drinking.

2.3. Approach

The hallmarks of the ACC’s approach to high-risk drinking were established through the strategic plan and continue to inform the work of the committee:

- Inclusive campus membership—students, faculty, staff
- Engagement of the campus community and communication with stakeholders
- Transparent process
- Recommendations made to policy “owners” from working groups
- Sustained student involvement

2.3.1 Inclusive Membership

To encourage broad student participation, the ACC intentionally reached out to specific campus groups in addition to encouraging self-nominations. The ACC solicited nominations from the Department of Athletics, the residential colleges, Religious Life, Health Promotion and Wellness Services, the Undergraduate Student Government, and the Undergraduate Life Committee. Some students were able to serve the entire year, others for only a semester. Each working group and executive team also reached out to the broader campus community, inviting additional faculty, staff, and students as members of the ACC sub-groups. This has proved to be an effective strategy, increasing the constituent base of the ACC and adding important input from a number of key stakeholder groups across the University.

2.3.2 Engagement of the Campus Community and Communication with Stakeholders

In December, the ACC hosted a workshop aimed at actively engaging the campus community, especially students, in a conversation on the University’s alcohol policy and enforcement. More than 100 students, faculty, and staff attended the workshop.

Continuing the ACC’s outreach efforts, the co-chairs met with campus and community stakeholders. These updates provided stakeholders the opportunity to comment and voice opinions on the current work of the ACC.

Campus stakeholders

- Undergraduate Life Committee
- Undergraduate Student Government

- InterClub Council
- Council of the Princeton University Community
- Healthier Princeton Advisory Board
- Varsity coaches and athletic staff
- Alcohol and Other Drug Team, University Health Services
- Residential college staff: masters, directors of student life, deans, and directors of study
- Student Life, Health, and Athletics Committee of the Board of Trustees

Community stakeholders

- Princeton Borough administrators
- Princeton Township administrators
- University Medical Center at Princeton
- Princeton Area Drug Alliance

2.3.3 Transparent Process

In an effort to encourage transparency, working groups and executive teams broadened their membership to include campus community members not on the ACC. In addition, the ACC website was updated regularly, including with postings of the mid-year executive summaries for the working groups and executive teams. Other efforts included:

- Updating senior members of the administration on the progress of the ACC
- Identifying some of the long-standing challenges to addressing high-risk drinking.
- Continuing stakeholder meetings
- Working in collaboration with the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, the residential colleges, the Office of the Dean of the College, University Health Services, Public Safety, Athletics, and the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life

2.3.4 Recommendations to Policy Owners

The working group model ensures transparency, campus participation, and communication while working directly with the stakeholders and “owners” of the policy being addressed. The working groups do not act as implementers, but as agents for ideas and suggestions to “policy owners.” As ideas emerge from the working groups, conversations begin with the primary stakeholders to ensure good feedback and direction. This process precedes any final recommendation, guaranteeing that once the final recommendation is made to the “owners,” all of the potential issues or problems have been successfully resolved.

2.3.5 Student Involvement

Creating opportunities to address high-risk drinking through open and honest dialogue and recommendations is essential to shifting a culture. Student involvement is critical to the success of the ACC. Co-chairs Elizabeth Dilday '09 and Chris Chandler '10 have provided strong student leadership which will help sustain the effort.

The ACC: The Co-Chair's Perspective

Chris Chandler '10

For me, the ACC has always been about having a voice. From the first time I heard about the ACC two years ago, I was drawn to the group based on the knowledge that I would be heard and that I would actually have real power to change things on the Princeton campus. It only made it more attractive that the ACC's charge is such an important one in the life of every student on campus. High-risk drinking is something that we, as college students, have witnessed and have probably been affected by in some way. This issue is an important one for the University to address, and it is my opinion that the discussion around it should always include a student voice. We are on "the front lines," and so we have the best view of both what exactly high-risk drinking looks like and how it might be addressed in a manner that will help effect a culture change. The student voice is also essential in helping to lend credibility to the ACC in the student population and to convince students that a culture change is something that we all need to work for.

My experience so far in the ACC has been an incredibly rewarding one. I have truly felt that my input has always been valued and that the other students and I have been able to make a real impact not only within the ACC but also across the entire campus. The mix of faculty, staff, and students is essential to the success of the ACC. This mix has allowed the group to address the issue from many different perspectives and, in doing so, we have been able to come up with ideas and solutions that very effectively and accurately combat high-risk drinking on the Princeton campus. Because high-risk drinking is such a complex issue and because we have a constantly changing group of students on campus from every kind of background imaginable, the presence of many different, sometimes conflicting, perspectives on both the causes of and the best solutions for high-risk drinking is an incredibly effective way to approach the task at hand, which is to effect a culture change across our campus to make it a more responsible drinking environment.

I believe that the work we have done to this point has been truly exceptional and that it is the start of a very successful campaign against high-risk drinking. I will not repeat every single recommendation that we have made in this report, but I do believe that through our open discussions and honest conversations, we have been able to come up with some very promising initiatives. One recommendation that I would like to expand upon is the idea for the ACC to have more student-only meetings. The idea here is not to cut out the faculty and staff, but rather to be sure that the student voice can be heard and that students both in and out of the ACC can feel even more ownership of the task of effecting a culture change across our campus. We are planning on having meetings that include only students from the ACC and other "town hall" meetings, where we would invite students not in the ACC to come and join in the discussion about high-risk drinking at Princeton. It is important to note that this is not an attempt to give the students a controlling grip on the decisions made by the ACC, but rather to allow them to have time to discuss the student's perspective and then have the ideas from these meetings be presented to the larger ACC as discussion topics. I believe that this will be an extremely important and effective way for us to continue forward with our charge in the coming years.

Overall, I would say that being on the ACC, and especially my time serving as co-chair, has been one of the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences I have had at Princeton. Besides the interesting, intelligent, and impressively open-minded faculty and staff members I have been able to meet, I feel that I have really been given the power to make real decisions that affect the campus as a whole. Having this power has only served to make me feel even more invested in the issue of high-risk drinking and has made me understand that all students need to understand that they have an important stake in this important and complex issue which affects all of us.

Elizabeth Dilday '09

I first caught wind of the development of the ACC at Princeton through an e-mail in the fall of 2007. The message invited students to apply to join the discussion of high-risk drinking on campus through a new organization. A combination of personal experiences, opinions, interests, and even fears made the ACC appealing to me. At the time, my brother's friend and longtime baseball teammate had recently passed away from alcohol poisoning at nearby Rider University in his freshman year. The grief overwhelmed his family and friends, devastated Rider's campus, and sent shockwaves through our hometown. The fact that his death was so preventable exacerbated everyone's pain. These thoughts motivated me to do my part to thwart a similar tragedy at Princeton.

Over the last two years, I have witnessed the exciting evolution of the Alcohol Coalition Committee, and I am very thankful for my involvement. While the structure of the ACC is constantly progressing, there are three aspects of the ACC that, in my opinion, were particularly helpful to the committee as we aimed to carry out our objectives.

The first element that helps the ACC hear from insiders about the drinking culture, gauge opinions from across the campus, and generate probable solutions is the ACC Workshop. Workshops feature a theme and a speaker, and offer attendees an opportunity to grapple with that theme in a comfortable environment. The results are infallible: As a member of the ACC and former co-chair, I have witnessed firsthand the quality, breadth, and irreplaceable nature of the ideas that come out of the workshops, time after time. In the spring of 2009, the ACC expanded the roots and the reach of the workshop structure when it hosted a two-day seminar for peer institutions on "Catalyzing a Culture Change."

A more recent—yet no less important—addition to the ACC has been the development of working groups, which act as branches of the ACC. Because high-risk drinking is such a multifaceted issue, it would be nearly impossible for a single body to address all areas of the problem. Thus, the allocation of more specific tasks to the working groups allows the ACC to choose concrete and relevant issues to unravel, delegate its initiatives, bring a greater number of people into the mix, and as a result, make a larger impact. With the advent of groups to tackle Education, Activities and Structures, and Party Registration, I can say with confidence that this happened in the 2008-2009 school year.

I am most indebted to the third critical aspect of the ACC—the people. Since the start of my involvement with the organization, the collaborative spirit on the coalition has amazed me. Firstly, it was interesting to see how alcohol played a role in the work of offices and stakeholders across campus. Moreover, as a student, I was frankly surprised by the Princeton faculty and staff’s accessibility, open-mindedness, enthusiasm, dedication, and care in regards to the issue of high-risk drinking. I hope that more students will have the opportunity and privilege to get involved on the ACC in the future. These attitudes, and the resultant relationships with the students, are most fundamental to the Alcohol Coalition Committee. The ACC and its people are proactively averting a tragedy such as the one that happened at Rider and, in turn, are crafting promising strategies that will foster a “culture change” on Princeton’s campus.

3. Accomplishments and Recommended Next Steps

3.1 Sustainability

The strategic plan called for an intentional effort to sustain the ACC as an ongoing initiative in the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life. This was completed in the summer of 2008, and Amy Campbell, director of campus life initiatives in that office, was appointed as a co-chair. The student co-chair’s terms were put on the same schedule, January to December, as the USG president and other campus organization leaders.

3.2 Data and Communications

Complementing the work of the executive teams and working groups, the ACC began a series of efforts to communicate the role and purpose of the ACC across campus, and to create and publish material relevant to undergraduates. During 2008-09, the ACC:

- Created and distributed an informational brochure to all freshmen.
- Created, in partnership with University Health Services and the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, *Just The Facts*, a comprehensive informational document about high-risk drinking, with Princeton-specific information (<http://www.princeton.edu/campuslife/acc/brochure/>).
- Added questions to the senior exit survey about alcohol use and its effect on the Princeton experience.
- Issued a statement, published as an advertisement in *The Daily Princetonian*, on the importance of students taking responsibility for creating a safe student culture and addressing high-risk drinking. This statement was signed by the co-chair of the ACC, the USG president and all eating club presidents.
- Staffed an ACC information table at FluFest.
- Conducted an ACC discussion and formulated a statement on the Amethyst Initiative, which supports debate on the 21-year-old drinking age.
- Updated the ACC website; summaries of working groups and executive teams, and membership of the ACC (<http://www.princeton.edu/acc>).
- Posted an Alcohol Policies FAQ on the ACC website.
- Collaborated with Communications on *Daily Princetonian* articles updating the campus community on the work of the ACC.

- Published ACC update articles in the *Princeton Weekly Bulletin* and on the University website.
- Made an ACC presentation to the Council of the Princeton University Community.
- Conducted campus and community stakeholders meetings.
- Made presentations to the Healthier Princeton Advisory Board.
- Provided updates to top University administrators.

Noteworthy: A May 15, 2009, article in *The Daily Princetonian* cited the ACC as an example of ways in which the University seeks student input on policies.

Looking ahead to future data and communications efforts, the committee discussed the need to identify appropriate measures of success, especially given the complexity of the issue and the challenge of understanding what success means and how it is defined.

3.3 Fall Workshop — The University’s Alcohol Policy and Enforcement: What Works and What Doesn’t December 5, 2008 1-4pm Wu Hall, Butler College

The executive team for this workshop was co-chaired by Maggie Browning, linguistics professor and master of Wilson College, and Laurie Frey ’09. The team included members of the ACC and other student, faculty, and staff members of the campus community. They were responsible for defining the focus of the workshop, developing table topics, selecting a keynote speaker, and leading the workshop. A separate group handled workshop logistics. More than 100 members of the Princeton community attended the workshop.

John Baker ’09, the keynote speaker, discussed his experience with substance abuse and the impact Princeton’s discipline process had on his recovery. His remarks were followed by two break-out sessions. The table topics were:

- Public Safety: Community Caregivers or Enforcers? Both?
- McCosh-University Health Services
- The Discipline System
- Empowering Students: Who Makes Policy? And Who Should?
- From the Student’s Perspective...
- The Princeton Drinking Culture: Influential Social Groups and Organizations
- Pre-gaming

The table discussions were moderated, and scribes noted the ideas and comments from the conversation. At the conclusion of each break-out sessions, each moderator gave a summary of the discussion and highlighted the ideas and recommendations that emerged.

Three primary themes emerged from the discussions:

- Many students mistrust the intentions and statements of the University regarding alcohol policy and enforcement.
- Real change in the drinking culture at Princeton can only happen if students take responsibility for it.
- Some well-intentioned actions to increase student safety may have unintended consequences that decrease student safety.

A variety of suggestions were offered to increase trust and communication between University departments and students, to educate freshmen more effectively on the dangers of high-risk drinking, to empower students to make positive changes in the social culture, and to fine-tune the discipline system so that it is both more educational and effective. The workshop provided a forum for students, faculty, and staff to engage in candid discussions of difficult, but critically important, topics.

Recommended Next Steps

The executive team recommended continued discussion about the alcohol policy and the discipline process.

3.4 Spring Seminar — “High-Risk Drinking: Catalyzing a Culture Change”

April 2-3, 2009 Chancellor Green and Frist Campus Center

The executive team for the seminar was co-chaired by Janet Finnie, director of operations and associate director of University Health Services, and Helen Chen '11. Jan Runkle, business manager, University Health Services, was appointed project manager. The team included members of the ACC and other student, faculty, and staff members of the campus community.

The executive team was charged with planning and hosting a spring seminar for peer institutions, employing the ACC workshop model of engaging students, faculty, and staff in an open and honest conversation. The focus of the seminar was on best practices and the campus culture of high-risk drinking. This was the ACC's first effort to reach beyond Princeton, to bring colleagues into a conversation to discuss collaboratively and strategically the culture of high-risk drinking.

The team met throughout the fall and spring semesters, identified a theme, “High-risk Drinking: Catalyzing a Culture Change,” and invited Dr. Barry Checkoway, a sociologist from the University of Michigan, to deliver the keynote remarks the evening before the workshop.

Seventeen schools and more than 130 students and staff attended the seminar:

Brown University	Princeton University
Bryn Mawr College	Rider University
Columbia University	Rutgers University
Duke University	Swarthmore College
Georgetown University	The United States Naval Academy
Haverford College	University of Pennsylvania
Johns Hopkins University	Ursinus College
Lehigh University	Yale University
New York University	

Using the workshop format, participants could choose to discuss two of ten table topics focusing on the culture of high-risk drinking on college campuses.

- Are Our Discipline Systems Part of the Problem?
- Why Do Smart Students Do Stupid Things?
- The Role of Social Structures

- Partnerships and Dialogue: Who Should Be at the Table?
- First Steps in Culture Change
- Who Takes Ownership?
- What Works/What Doesn't
- What Will Change Produce? Creating an Appealing and Realistic Vision
- Barriers to Change: Tradition vs. Culture Change
- Wild Card/Outside the Box

Ideas that emerged for the discussion on ways to address high-risk drinking included:

- Social honor code
- Amnesty policies for seeking help
- Monitored events serving alcohol
- Alcohol education that includes information about blood alcohol content (BAC)
- Students taking the lead to change the culture, with administration support
- Higher levels of engagement—social, spiritual, intellectual, civic participation transforms individual communities to become agents of change in the broader society
- Leadership from peers, alumni, administration about the risks involved in irresponsible drinking behavior.
- Focus on positive rewards for responsible behavior
- Sponsor activities that normalize responsible drinking; pub night, wine tasting, socializing as the purpose of the event
- Create a culture of trust for open, frank discussions with students; students and administrators are partners not adversaries; informers not informants
- School sponsored 21st birthday parties

Recommended Next Steps

The seminar began a cross-institutional, cross-constituent based conversation on culture change and high-risk drinking. The ACC will explore ways to continue to engage our peers in conversation and the sharing of best practices.

3.5 Strategic Areas and Working Groups

3.5.1 Education

Membership and Charge

Gina Abrams, director for health promotion and wellness services at UHS, Megan Murley '10, and Katharine Gilman '09 were the co-chairs of the education working group. The group included ACC members and additional students, faculty, and staff from across campus constituents.

The education working group was charged with reviewing and strengthening Princeton's alcohol education strategy. Specifically, the group was charged with addressing: freshman alcohol education prior to and during orientation; pre-gaming drinking behavior; and ways to dispel myths associated with medical treatment.

Accomplishments

Freshmen Alcohol Education Prior to and During Orientation

Following a review of the four commercial online alcohol education courses, the working group supported continuing the current online educational course, AlcoholEdu for College, administered as part of the pre-matriculation packet. The group recommended a Princeton-specific product in the future.

The group recommended the online course be complemented with information specific to Princeton University and suggested a student-created video competition. The recommendation was vetted with various stakeholders and Health Promotion and Wellness Services at University Health Services agreed to serve as the owner of this project.

Following the solicitation of videos, Connor Diemand-Yauman, president of the Undergraduate Student Government, was selected to introduce the online course in a video message.

The working group reviewed an inventory of activities conducted during freshmen orientation noting the messages about alcohol fell into three broad categories: social, policy, and health.

The group reviewed early evaluation data on the *Decision-Making and the Princeton Social Scene* workshop that was pilot-tested in Forbes and Whitman colleges in the fall of 2008. The group recommended the University include this workshop on decision making on the formal orientation schedule for all freshmen in the fall of 2009. The recommendation was vetted with key orientation planners from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students and will become a part of the residential college orientation program for first year students.

Recommended Next Steps

- Ensure orientation alcohol education programs set expectations for community membership and address high-risk behaviors effectively from the outset
- Create a comprehensive alcohol education strategy for undergraduate students
- Identify ways to dispel myths about UHS and alcohol consumption
- Meet with eating club and other student leaders to discuss pre-gaming

3.5.2 Party Registration

Membership and Charge

The working group was co-chaired by Victoria Jueds, assistant dean in the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, and Cole Morris '09. The team included members of the ACC and other student, faculty, and staff members of the campus community.

The party registration working group was charged by the ACC with crafting a workable procedure for the permissible serving of alcohol by and to of-age students in their dormitory rooms.

Accomplishments

The working group made several recommendations to the dean of undergraduate students for implementing a party registration process:

- The group proposed that small gatherings of students aged 21 and older be exempted from the requirements of the party registration process.
- For larger gatherings, the group proposed the formal adoption of an online registration process.
- When satisfactorily completed by the prospective host(s) and approved by a representative of ODUS, the process would establish an agreement between the host(s) and the University.
- The group proposed the creation of a student-led and student-staffed Peer Alcohol Council (PAC). The PAC will facilitate understanding among students—particularly prospective party hosts—about the realities of alcohol consumption.
- The group recommended that the effectiveness of the party registration process and the peer leadership program be assessed on an ongoing basis.

Summary of Discussions

The party registration group had not been charged with re-examining the terms of *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities*, and it did not encounter any reason to recommend changes to existing policy, which allows for the serving of alcohol by and to of-age students in dormitory rooms with the permission of the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students.

The group therefore focused on procedure, not policy. Current procedure for registering a party is not well publicized and many students are unaware that it exists. Furthermore, the procedure is ad hoc in nature. The group agreed that formality—and hence, consistency—is important. The group sought to craft a procedure that would remedy these shortcomings.

In keeping with the spirit of the ACC, the party registration group endorsed an open, honest, and collegial approach. The group felt strongly that the party registration process should be a mechanism for bringing the community together around the issue of alcohol awareness, a means of lowering the incidence of high-risk drinking, and an opportunity to enhance—in terms of health, safety, and enjoyment—the social lives of students who are legally entitled to consume alcohol.

The group felt that the terms of the party registration process should make it clear that the University does not condone excessive consumption of alcohol and fully supports those members of the community who choose not to consume alcohol at all. At the same time, the process should recognize that persons aged 21 and older on this campus are legally entitled to drink alcohol, and that it is possible to do so responsibly.

Campus Partners and Stakeholders

In addition to the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students, campus partners and stakeholders include University Health Services, the Department of Public Safety, and the residential colleges.

Recommended Next Steps

The group recommended the party registration process be implemented in the spring of 2009. (Note: The process was implemented before the end of the spring semester.) With the completion of an “of-age” registration policy, the working group recommended the convening of a new working group that would be charged with re-examining the University’s policy on alcohol at gatherings of community members in common spaces, as opposed to dormitory rooms. Currently, *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities* states that “[a]lcoholic beverages normally will not be provided at events where persons under the legal drinking age for consumption of alcoholic beverages are present, including those sponsored by the University, the residential colleges, the University centers, the Undergraduate Student Government, and the classes.”

The new group should inquire whether this policy is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the ACC’s goals—especially given that a prominent theme of recent ACC workshops has been the need to provide opportunities for underage students to observe and learn from the healthy, responsible, and legal approach to alcohol taken by their of-age peers and other members of the community. The new group should focus on events sponsored by (a) offices and departments, and (b) student organizations and affiliate groups.

3.5.3 Structures and Activities

Membership and Charge

Matthew Lazen, director of studies in Butler College, and Chris Chandler ’10 (fall 2008) served as co-chairs. The working group included ACC members and additional students, faculty, and staff from across campus constituents.

The structures and activities working group was charged with encouraging the development of structures to mitigate the effects of high-risk drinking and promoting activities that provide alternatives to high-risk drinking. It combines the functions of two working groups recommended in the ACC Strategic Plan in May 2008—“Activities, Programs, and Events” and “Structures and Environment.” As one of its longer-term goals, the structures and activities group was charged with exploring the possibility of a conversation on the viability of a campus pub and its potential benefits and risks.

Accomplishments

The working group met throughout the year and made a series of recommendations, which will be used to inform the work of other groups and policy “owners.”

Provision of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

In addition to the party registration guidelines on the provision of food and non-alcoholic beverages, the working group recommended that food and alternative beverages be made more readily available including:

- Readily accessible and visible food and non-alcoholic beverage options at eating clubs
- Food vendors on Prospect Avenue, especially on Thursday and Saturday evenings
- Campus Club activities/programs

- Special meals in the dining halls during times of high-risk drinking such as Dean’s Date, lawn and house parties, Halloween celebrations, and Bicker week
- Parties and other events with food and non-alcoholic beverages organized by the USG, residential colleges, and student groups.

Programming Offering Alternatives to High-Risk Drinking

Princeton’s campus is frequently abuzz with exciting programs and activities, and fruitful efforts have been made to increase the menu of options that don’t involve high-risk drinking. The working group recommended a variety of programs, including programs that provide alternative activities for students who prefer not to participate in events involving alcohol as well as events that appeal to students who might otherwise engage in activities involving high-risk drinking.

Improved Publicity for Programs Offering Alternatives to High-Risk Drinking

Although there are many alternative activities already available at Princeton, more effort can be made to publicize these events to students. In particular, the working group recommends the development of a consolidated calendar of University events that would help make students aware of the alternatives to events involving high-risk drinking

Recommended Next Steps

Most of the working group’s efforts focused on more easily achievable measures to broaden the range and visibility of programs that offer alternatives to high-risk drinking and improve the provision of food and non-alcoholic beverages to reduce the effects of high-risk drinking. Many of these activities are ongoing, and new recommendations will emerge over time.

In the coming year, the working group recommends focusing on the following activities:

- Continued consideration of provision of food and non-alcoholic beverages to mitigate the effects of high-risk drinking
- Increased focus on alternative programming and pre-gaming in the dorms
- Data analysis to better gauge the effectiveness of our efforts to reduce high-risk drinking and its consequences
- Continued consideration of a campus pub

4. Proposed Efforts for 2009-2010

The ACC recommends establishing five working groups for 2009-2010.

4.1 Working Groups

The working groups and their recommended charges are:

Education

- Evaluate and recommend alcohol education orientation activities
- Recommend components of a comprehensive alcohol education program
- Explore a Princeton specific alternative to the commercial AlcoholEdu for College
- Engage eating club and other student leaders in discussions related to decreasing pre-gaming drinking behavior

Mixed-Aged Gatherings

- Re-examine the University's policy on alcohol at events and gatherings of community members in common spaces

Alcohol Policy

- Review University disciplinary policies and consider whether our policies effectively support student well-being in addition to complying with the law
- Recommend policy changes to the Dean of Undergraduate Students

Data

- Review current alcohol-related data collection
- Explore how to measure the success of the ACC and its effect on the culture of high-risk drinking on campus

Dispelling Myths

- Initiate conversations with students to understand the myths that misinform students about the role of Public Safety, University Health Services and the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Students pertaining to high-risk drinking and other drug and alcohol related issues
- Work with campus stakeholders to develop a strategy to dispel the myths

4.2 Alcohol Coalition Committee Priorities

In addition to recommending the six working groups, the ACC proposes these priorities for 2009-2010:

- Begin themed discussions and outreach programs to include conversations with the eating clubs, athletic teams, residential colleges, the ULC, and the USG
- Begin conversations with the eating clubs about hosting mini-workshops on Princeton's alcohol culture, pre-gaming, and ways to address high-risk drinking
- Follow up on the spring seminar by
 - Encouraging visits between the schools that attended the workshop
 - Creating an online ACC Journal with submissions from seminar participants and others addressing the culture of high-risk drinking
- Have campus offices provide updates to the ACC on Princeton-specific alcohol and related behavior data and survey reports
- Engage in strategic communication by:
 - Updating *Just the Facts* and distributing it to all freshmen
 - Providing updates on the University website
 - Providing updates on the ACC website
 - Conducting campus and community stakeholder meetings