

Letter
Resolution Regarding Student Senate Input on the University Alcohol Policy

Docket #: SS0001-24

Fr. Mark Poorman
Office of Student Affairs
315 Main Building

cc: Mrs. Jenny Monahan and ^{Gina} Ann Firth, & Ann Firth

Dear Fr. Mark Poorman,

The Student Senate Committee on University Affairs, in response to your office's desire for student input, would like to voice our concerns and ideas about the current alcohol policy. Please accept our concerns as a supplement to the information you've gathered in your focus groups.

While we acknowledge that excessive drinking does occur on this campus, it is not the structure of the alcohol policy that causes this problem. The main problem stems from the lack of social activities on campus.

A healthy social environment is one that provides relief from the stress of schoolwork, social interaction and enjoyable activities for all interested students. When this environment does not exist there is a risk that students will result to drinking as a means of entertainment.

We feel that the University must play a stronger role in creating and maintaining this kind of social environment. To create this environment it is essential for more money to be allocated for large-scale programming. With more programming money, organizations such as Flipside and SUB can provide more large-scale events attractive to the student body such as hypnotists, famous speakers, cultural events, and popular concerts.

We are not limited to only increasing activities here on campus. We should take advantage of our community and the surrounding area. This could be done by improving relations with established businesses in South Bend, along with providing transportation to cities such as Chicago and Indianapolis, where there are numerous valuable opportunities for social and cultural entertainment such as athletic events, museums, and theatrical performances.

Although we acknowledge that students are responsible for making healthy decisions, it is essential to provide positive social experiences free from the pressures of alcohol. By improving non-alcoholic programming we can begin to move towards creating healthy social environments for all students.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. As senators, we try to represent the voice of the student body. If there is anything else we can do, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In Notre Dame,

Kathleen Brogan, Co-Chair
Senate Committee on University Affairs

Bethany Barker, Co-Chair
Senate Committee on University Affairs

Brooke Norton
Student Senate Chair

