



Date: February 25, 2020

To: Chancellor Rebecca Blank

Subject: Amnesty Through Responsible Action

The health and safety of the University of Wisconsin-Madison community is of primary concern. High-risk behavior such as binge drinking and abuse of alcohol and other drugs, particularly among students under the age of 21, is an unfortunate environmental reality within our community. To effectively combat the negative health and safety impacts of these behaviors, it is essential that UW-Madison develop programs to encourage responsible actions and remove barriers to safety-conscious decision-making. In order to address these concerns, we propose that the existing Responsible Action Guidelines be expanded to an **Amnesty Through Responsible Action** program. This program would be implemented starting with SOAR in Summer 2020. A messaging and education plan would also be extended to the whole student body.

Our current Responsible Action Guidelines limit amnesty from UW-Madison disciplinary actions to the student calling an emergency number on behalf of a peer in need of medical attention and victims of sexual assault or violent crime while under the influence of alcohol. Excluding the student in need of medical attention from this protection deters students from calling for help. Ideally, every student would prioritize the life and wellbeing of their peers, but fear of retribution, peer pressure, and impaired judgement under the influence of alcohol and other drugs present strong barriers to making the call. Research shows that students are more likely to call when they know it will not result in punitive consequences against their friend.

The Amnesty Through Responsible Action program removes that barrier by extending amnesty to the student in need of medical attention due to alcohol or drug overdose. To prevent exploitation of the program and address underlying behavioral concerns, it is crucial that all students involved in an incident are connected to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) and educational resources. To receive amnesty, the student *must fully cooperate with all university personnel and comply with assigned educational programming and interventions*. OSCCS would also maintain the right to escalate sanctions if a student is observed to have a pattern of problematic behavior.

A limitation to this program is its restriction to on-campus incidents knowing that most events take place off-campus. However, the strong agreement between students, staff, and police demonstrates a need to take this important step in combating high-risk behaviors in our community. Future work should address these concerns state-wide and employ more educational and peer to peer programs to encourage responsible action.

We, the undersigned, commit to implementing, messaging, and enforcing the attached Amnesty Through Responsible Action program beginning Summer 2020 if approved:



Laura Downer
Chair, Associated Students of Madison



Jeff Novak
Director, University Housing



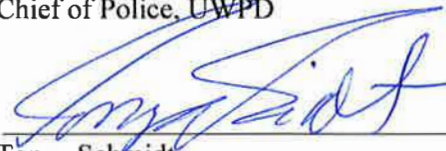
Christina Olstad, Ed.D.
Dean of Students



Lori Reesor, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs



Kristen Roman
Chief of Police, UWPD



Tonya Schmidt
Assistant Dean and Director, OSCCS

Amnesty Through Responsible Action

Amnesty Through Responsible Action is part of University of Wisconsin-Madison's comprehensive environmental approach to address high-risk behaviors. Because the health and safety of the members of the UW-Madison community is of primary concern, we want to remove the perceived barriers that prevent students from seeking immediate medical attention. This program has been designed for the student who is concerned for the well-being of a fellow student and enables the university to more effectively address the issue of civility and good citizenship with our students. Students are expected to come to the aid of fellow students who are suffering a medical emergency.

In cases where individuals are incapacitated due to alcohol and/or other drugs, it is imperative that someone calls for medical assistance. In the interest of student safety, this program serves to remove or reduce punitive consequences faced by students in violation of Non-Academic Misconduct (UWS 17 and/or UWS 18).

Amnesty Through Responsible Action allows the student who required medical assistance to receive medical attention without a violation of UWS 17 and/or UWS 18. It would also remove violations for those who assisted the student in need.

Please note, the following guidelines apply only to disciplinary actions related to a caller's personal consumption of alcohol and/or other drugs and of the individual who is in need of medical attention. They do not apply to supplying of alcohol or other drugs, or to other crimes/violations of university rules.

Caller

When a student calls on behalf of an impaired individual, remains with that individual until assistance arrives, fully cooperates with emergency responders, and attends any follow-up meeting(s) requested by university staff (OSCCS or Dean of Students Office) the caller will not be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in Non-Academic Misconduct (UWS 17 and/or UWS 18), sanctions from the Division of University Housing, or citation by UW-Madison Police for their personal consumption of alcohol (e.g., underage drinking) and/or other drugs. However, failure to call for assistance in an alcohol and/or other drug related emergency is a very serious matter and will be considered an "aggravating circumstance" factored into disciplinary action against the student should violations of Non-Academic Misconduct (UWS 17 and/or UWS 18) occurred in relation to the incident.

Following the Incident

Person in Need of Medical Attention– When a student requires emergency evaluation and/or treatment at a medical facility for an overdose of alcohol and/or other drugs, the student will be required to meet with a staff member from the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) to discuss the incident and to connect with appropriate resources and support. If the student qualifies for this program, they will not receive official sanctions through the disciplinary procedures outlined in UWS 17 and/or UWS 18 provided they complete the following:

- Attend an appropriate alcohol and other drug (AOD) educational program/intervention (e.g. BASICS, CASICS, AOD assessment and evaluation)¹;
- Comply with recommendations set forth by AOD provider;

¹ There may be charges/fees incurred for some AOD Programs. Students who have a verified financial need may request a waiver through the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

- Complete any other educational recommendations from the OSCCS staff member;
- Complete any necessary follow-up meetings with OSCCS staff.

When it is determined a student qualifies for this program, UW-Madison Police will hold the underage alcohol and/or other drug citation in abeyance, pending the student's completion of the requirements from OSCCS. OSCCS staff will notify UW-Madison Police when the requirements have been completed.

In addition, as per the University Parental/Guardian Involvement Policy, a parental/guardian contact normally occurs when a student is transported to Detox/Emergency Room for overdoses of alcohol and/or other drugs. When the student's behavior involves other UWS 17 and/or UWS 18 violations, or the student exhibits a pattern of problematic behavior with alcohol and/or other drugs, they may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

Amnesty Through Responsible Action may also apply in the following situations:

Victims of Crime— In cases where a student has been a victim of sexual assault and/or a violent crime while under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs, neither the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards (OSCCS), University Housing, nor UW-Madison Police will pursue disciplinary actions against the student victim (or against a witness) for their improper use of alcohol (e.g., underage drinking) and/or other drugs. A student victim who is under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs at the time of a sexual assault and/or violent crime is entitled to university and community assistance and encouraged to seek help.

Student Organizations— A representative of a student organization hosting an event is expected to promptly call for assistance if they become aware of an emergency. Failure to call will be considered an "aggravating circumstance" and will be factored into disciplinary action for the student organization.