



Messiah College Student Government Association  
Office of the Student Body President

May 7, 2015 6:45AM

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For Immediate Release:

**UPDATE ON THE ALCOHOL POLICY RESEARCH**

Dear Fellow Students,

By this point in the semester, many of you are probably wondering what ever happened with the SGA survey on the student alcohol policy! We are very pleased to finally share an executive summary of the data with the community, which you will find attached.

Additionally, please allow me to share SGA's vision and direction for the future regarding this survey and the alcohol policy. Given the survey results, especially the hundreds of comments, it is clear a large majority of the students on campus would like to see a policy change that would allow students 21 years and older to responsibly consume alcohol off campus. A change as significant as this one, however, requires more research and conversation than we were able to afford this semester. For this reason, several SGA leaders proposed the attached recommendation to Student Senate on April 23, which calls for the formation of a joint task force with the division of student affairs. Having received the full support of the Student Senate, this task force will continue to meet over the summer and into the fall. They will then report back to Student Senate regarding any additional action or recommendations on SGA's behalf before October 1. Please remember that if a policy change were to take place, it would happen absolutely no earlier than the fall semester of 2016.

We know the alcohol policy is a major conversation among students, so please know that both this year's Student Body President's Cabinet and next year's remain committed to hearing students' concerns and making recommendations to campus administration that benefit the overall success and educational purpose of the community. We would encourage those who continue to have thoughts or concerns about this matter to pursue dialogue with the Student Body President's Cabinet and division of student affairs throughout the fall.

On behalf of the Student Body President's Cabinet and the Student Government Association, I wish you all a very successful end to the semester!

Yours,

Tim

Timothy Sensenig  
Student Body President

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# Undergraduate Alcohol Policy Survey



**1,027**

Total Responses

**511**

Under the age of 21

**492**

21 Years of age or older

**22**

Do not wish to disclose

## Student Opinion

**57%**

of students under 21

**47%**

of students over 21

*Agree or strongly agree* that refraining from alcohol consumption while enrolled at Messiah College helps maintain a healthy educational environment

**74%**

of students under 21

**84%**

of students over 21

*Agree or strongly agree* that allowing students who are age 21 or older to responsibly consume alcohol off campus would not negatively impact the educational environment

## Student Report on Family Environment

**8%**

Parents or guardians **do not drink alcohol** and are heavily opposed to alcohol consumption

**24%**

Parents or **guardians do not drink alcohol**, but are not opposed to it

**49%**

Parents or guardians **drink alcohol occasionally**

## Student Alcohol Policy

**Is NOT appropriate** for our community, but I still choose to abide by it

**29%**

**Is appropriate** for our community and I choose to abide by it

**26%**

**Is NOT appropriate** for our community so I choose NOT to abide by it

**17%**

**Is appropriate** for our community, but NOT necessarily for me as an individual, so I choose NOT to abide by it

**12%**

**16%**

Do not wish to disclose or Other



PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE ALCOHOL POLICY RESEARCH  
AS A JOINT VENTURE WITH STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Student Senate

April 23, 2015

**Whereas**, Section 3.1.1.3 of the Student Government Association Governance Manual charges Student Senate with the responsibility to “recommend policy changes and initiatives to the College Administration, Faculty, Board of Trustees, and surrounding community”; and Section 3.1.2.2a of the Student Government Association Governance Manual charges the Student Body President’s Cabinet with the responsibility to “coordinated SGA operations and functions”; and Section 3.1.2.2b of the Student Government Association Governance Manual charges the Student Body President’s Cabinet with the responsibility to “channel specific SGA issues to the Senate and its committees,” and

**Whereas**, a change to student conduct policy regarding alcohol could have a significant impact on campus climate and student experience to an extent that is difficult to predict without thorough investigation and collaboration across campus, but especially with the division of student affairs, and

**Whereas**, a self-elected, anonymous survey of the student body collected 289 anecdotes and comments from students collectively expressing a strong request for the Student Body President’s Cabinet and College administration to consider amendments to the student alcohol policy; and a high percentage (78.6%) of these student respondents also believe allowing students over 21 years of age would not negatively impact life on campus; and the SGA acknowledges this demand and widespread student opinion,

**Therefore be it resolved**, that we, the Messiah College Student Government Association, recognize the request of the majority of students to research amendments to the current student alcohol policy that would permit students 21-years and older to responsibly consume alcohol off campus, and

**Therefore be it further resolved**, that we, the Messiah College Student Government Association, seek a partnership with the Division of Student Affairs in researching further amendments to the student alcohol policy and provide our leadership and the Division of Student Affairs the below articles to direct their research and govern their partnership.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Sensenig, *Student Body President*

Jessica Teeter, *Chair of the Peer Review Board*

Jonathan Fuller, *Student Body President-elect*

Josiah Elshahir, *Chair-elect of the Peer Review Board*

## **Article I: Joint Task Force on Alcohol Policy Research Objectives**

Section 1. SGA leadership and the Division of Student Affairs leadership shall establish a Joint Task Force on Alcohol Policy Research (hereafter referred to as “the Task Force”) to investigate amending the student alcohol policy to permit students who are over 21-years and older to responsibly consume alcohol of campus.

Section 2. The co-chairs of the Task Force, or designees, shall present the Task Force’s findings to the Student Senate no later than October 1, 2015, at which time the co-chairs shall recommend to Student Senate further courses of action.

## **Article II: Joint Task Force on Alcohol Policy Research Membership**

Section 1. The full membership of the Task Force shall be as follows:

- a. The Dean of Students (co-chair)
- b. The Student Body President (co-chair)
- c. The Associate Dean of Students
- d. The Director of Resident Life
- e. One at Large Faculty Member, appointed by the Dean of Students
- f. The Counselor Specializing in Alcohol and Drug Education
- g. The Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Programs
- h. The Chair of the Peer Review Board
- i. One at Large Student, appointed by the Student Body President
- j. Additional members as deemed necessary by the co-chairs

## **Article III: Topics for Consideration by the Task Force on Alcohol Policy Research**

Section 1. In achieving the above objectives, the Task Force shall consider the following guiding questions:

- a. How would a change to the student alcohol policy affect the culture of our institution?
- b. How would it affect the physical, mental, social, spiritual and academic health of students?
- c. How would educational opportunities be created or eliminated?
- d. What financial costs or risks are involved with a potential change?

Section 2. In achieving the above objectives and guiding questions, the Task Force on Alcohol Policy Research shall evaluate the following areas of research and topics of interest for meaningfulness and relevancy as much as possible:

- a. Alcohol use in 18- to 25-year olds nationwide
- b. Alcohol use on dry campuses nationwide
- c. Alcohol use on small, private liberal arts campuses nationwide
- d. Educational programming as it relates to alcohol use on college campuses
- e. Alcohol policies of benchmark institutions
- f. The relationship between alcohol use and
  - a. sexual assault

- b. overall crime
- c. educational success
- d. personal development
- g. Other topics and areas as decided by the Task Force

Section 3. In achieving the above objectives and seeking answers to the above guiding questions, the Task Force shall consult the following departments, divisions and offices as much as possible:

- a. The Associate Dean of Students (effects on student life and discipline process)
- b. The Director of Residence Life (effects on student life and overall campus culture)
- c. Admissions (effects on prospective students and enrollment)
- d. The Engle Center (effects on student health and success)
- e. Vice President for Operations (effects on insurance and safety programming)
- f. Director of Alumni and Parent Relations (effects on constituent relations)
- g. Director of Development (effects on constituent and donor relations)
- h. Career and Professional Development Center (effects on student employability)
- i. Provost's and/or Sider Institute (mission and identity compatibility)