

**PARENT VOLUNTEER DAY**  
**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JANUARY 21, 2006**

**Lafayette Student Social Life Study**  
**Minutes**

**Introductions**

The meeting began at 1:10 p.m. with introductions.

41 parents attended: 6 – P'06, 11 – P'07, 6 – P'08, 18 – P'09

**Background**

Donna Krivoski, Director of Parents Programs, presented background information on Parents Programs and the purpose of the committee. Karen Forbes, Director of Counseling Services and Student Life Research, presented general information on the origin and current status of the Student Social Life Study. Parents were given the results of the Student Social Life Survey to review.

**Discussion of Survey Results**

Dr. Forbes and Kevin Worthen, Acting Dean of Students, held an open discussion on each of the questions from the survey. Discussion also included:

- How the information on Lafayette students was gathered (via first-year and senior surveys and an alcohol survey administered to students)
- Students' definitions of social life
- Fraternity and sorority membership data
- College alcohol policy and issues
- Lafayette statistics
- Education in safe vs. unsafe drinking
- Lafayette's Harm Reduction Program

Suggestions from parents included:

- Posting the information from this meeting on the Lafayette parents web site ([A link to this information will be added to the parents web site by Spring Break.](#))
- Offer a session on this topic to parents at Family Weekend and at the June Academic Advising Program (*A session will be offered in June 2006 and a recommendation will be made to the Family Weekend Committee to include this in their programming.*)

- The NCAA programs on alcohol should be open to all students. *(They already are; but we will clarify this in future advertisements for the programs.)*
- The online educational program, *MyStudentBody*. Com, should not assume all students already drink and should provide answer options for those who do not drink. *(This will be addressed.)*
- Parents and students should be educated on PA laws on underage drinking and “hosting parties.” *(This will be covered in the June Advising Program.)*

#### Questions and concerns from parents included:

- Should IDs of students be checked before they board the L-CATS bus to downtown at night? *(This is not a “bar bus” so it is probably not feasible to require ID checks. The bus goes to Wal-Mart and to other shopping locations.)*
- Is Lafayette liable for providing transportation downtown if students go to a bar? *(General Counsel has reviewed and approved offering this bus service [that] takes students to general shopping areas.)*
- Can a parent call the College if concerned about their student’s drinking? *(Yes! They can call the Counseling Center at 610-330-5005 or the Office of Residence Life at 610-330-5335. Parents are notified if a student violates the alcohol policy.)*
- What is replacing Gilbert's since it is closed this semester? *(Simon’s is a recently opened early-morning and late-night food service option that has opened to great acclaim. The Café in Skillman Library has expanded its menu. Farinon Food Court is also offering favorites from Gilbert’s.)*
- Will the College call a parent if the student has an alcohol problem? *(Parents are generally notified by letter if a student has violated the alcohol policy, however parents of students who are hospitalized for alcohol-related reasons will be notified by phone by a member of the Dean of Students’ staff.)*
- Some evening activities have been so popular (i.e. Stuff-a-Bear), not all students can attend. What can the college do to offer the activity so more can attend? *(The Office of Student Life Programs and the Lafayette Activities Forum consistently evaluate the popularity of programs and make adjustments accordingly.)*
- Can the College make alcohol education mandatory in the first 4 weeks for all students? *(Students attend alcohol education programs during orientation in August and starting in June 2006, will also attend a workshop during June advising. All students are expected to complete the online program, My StudentBody.com, during the summer. Resident advisers review alcohol policies during the first week of the semester and many schedule educational programs in their halls during the semester. Student-athletes attend mandatory seminars on alcohol and sexual assault.)*

#### Miscellaneous

- There is a change of date for Family Weekend 2006 to **September 15-17.**
- Parents web site – information from this meeting will be linked to the “Parents” page of [www.lafayette.edu](http://www.lafayette.edu). If parents have additional suggestions for additions or changes to the web site, they should email them to Donna Krivoski at [krivoskd@lafayette.edu](mailto:krivoskd@lafayette.edu).

- Additional questions:
  - Can the dining hall menus be online? (*Dining Services has agreed to reformat the menus so they can be uploaded on the web site by Spring Break.*)
  - With Gilbert's closed, where can the students get the very-popular Gilbert's Nachos? (*Farinon Food Court – all day.*)
  - Can the L-CATS shuttle schedule be posted online? (*The schedule already is online and can be accessed from either the Parents or Student Life web pages.*)
  - Can the State Theatre offer discounts to Lafayette students as an incentive to non-alcohol related evening entertainment? (*This suggestion was given to Student Life Programs and will be explored with the State Theatre.*)

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.