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*Acting Dean of the College*

To: Dartmouth Undergraduates

From: Dan Nelson

Date: October 9, 2007

Subj: SEMP Review

A number of students and colleagues have recommended that the Dean of the College Office undertake a review of our SEMP (Social Event Management Procedures) policies that concern how student groups can manage alcohol at parties and other gatherings in a way that is safe, responsible, and consistent with College policy and state law. I deferred that review until a new Dean of the College was identified. With Tom Crady's appointment as the new Dean of the College (effective this coming winter term), fall term is an appropriate time to initiate that reexamination so that Dean Crady can receive a report and recommendations later in the year.

Our current policies reflect the recommendations of two review committees over the last four years, but I believe they can be improved. I have asked Marty Redman, Dean of Residential Life, to chair and identify a small working group (including students and staff) to review our existing policies, compare them with good policies and "best practices" at other institutions, solicit community concerns and suggestions, examine data about organizational compliance with existing policies, and make recommendations for improvements by the end of winter term.

In a series of discussions with student groups last year, I outlined our goals concerning the role of alcohol:

- Reduce the short- and long-term potential for harm to individuals created by their high-risk alcohol consumption.
- Reduce the negative secondary effects of high-risk drinking on other members of the Dartmouth community and surrounding community.
- Promote individual and organizational learning, responsibility, and accountability regarding choices and behaviors involving alcohol.
- Maintain constructive, open and educationally-productive relationships with students who may disagree with Dartmouth alcohol policies and how they are implemented.
- Protect the integrity and reputation of Dartmouth College as providing a positive environment for learning and growth.
- Responsibly fulfill our obligations to enable Dartmouth to comply with relevant laws and to exercise appropriate risk management.

I would like the working group to recommend ways the content, implementation and enforcement of our SEMP policies (including the regulation of kegs and requirements for registering parties where alcohol is served) might be improved in order to do a better job of achieving these goals, and in order to allow students to plan and manage their social events reasonably.