



## UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS / AMHERST UNIVERSITY HEALTH COUNCIL

**Meeting Minutes**  
**12:00PM, Thursday, November 29, 2007**  
**Room 903, Campus Center**

Present @ Meeting: Tobias Baskin, Wilmore Webley, Colette Nadeau, Daphne Patai, Debbie Warner, Judy LaDuc, Sally Linowski, Maxine Schmidt, Diane Fedochak, Beth Lang, Julie Nelson

- I. **Introductions of Health Council Members** and meeting called to order at 12:05PM
- II. **Minutes:** The minutes were approved from 9/27/07. Motion to accept was made by Debbie Warner and seconded by Beth Lang. All were in favor and motion was carried.
- III. **New Business:** PowerPoint presentation by Sally Linowski, PhD and Diane Fedorchak, Med. Topic was: "UMass Amherst Alcohol Abuse Trends, Strategic Initiatives and Success of the BASICS Program"
  - To impact college drinking, UMass has been using environmental management to address factors
  - Reduce alcohol availability; restrict marketing and promotion, offer alcohol free event options, increase enforcement of laws and campus policies, change normative environment and correct misconceptions of social norms. What most students believe about others students' drinking habits isn't actually true. Beer Bullies also need to be addressed.
  - UMass should avoid class scheduling that leaves Thursday and Friday with no classes available and allowing no classes until noon. This condones behavior that may lead to alcohol abuse.
  - Now in second year of mandatory classes that are required prior to campus living. These courses are offered on-line at [www.mystudentbody.com](http://www.mystudentbody.com) and the students don't complete them, holds may be placed on registration.
  - Implementation of Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce Drinking. Work with Police Departments and local housing (landlords of problem properties)
  - **December 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 to 5:00PM** at the Campus Center is the Campus & Community Coalition's Leadership Reception. They will be giving some recognition awards and you are welcome to attend.
  - Students view alcohol abuse as a problem on campus. 39.1% consider it a major problem and 41.4% consider it a problem. That means that 80.5% of UMass students consider alcohol a problem on campus.
  - A poll of students showed that 73% felt that the alcohol policies were about right or too lenient. 81% want UMass to do more, such as stricter sanctions.
  - The BASICS program at UMass Amherst may be one of the largest University programs in the US.
  - The heavy episodic drinking rate at UMass is on its way down thanks to BASICS, CCC, Center for Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention, UMPD, UHS and many others
  - You may be referred to BASICS by a health care provider or other professional as well as by judicial appointment.
  - UMass Amherst has had more than 2000 referrals so far. Very successful program.
  - Highest risk groups for alcohol abuse are freshmen females and sophomore males.
  - UMass Amherst is at risk because we are rural, predominately white, have an "A" Division sports team.
  - May need Health Council's support in the future to get cooperation with grades withheld as a correlation with consequences of behavior.
- IV. **The next Health Council Meeting is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008 from 12:00 to 1:00PM in the Campus Center, room 903.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Judith LaDuc**  
**Associate Biological Safety Officer**  
**Interim Recording Secretary for the Health Council**