



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

Student Health Service  
(502) 745-5641

July 17, 1989

To: Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, President

From: Kevin E. Charles, Chairperson, Task Force on Alcohol and  
Other Drugs

Re: Final Report

Attached, as per your request, is the report of the Task Force on Alcohol and Other Drugs. I would like to acknowledge the significant time and effort expended by task force members, who, over the months, have logged a great number of hours on this project. This report reflects their dedication and commitment to achieving a campus and community-wide strategy to deal with the alcohol and other drug problems we must face at Western.

In considering this report, some additional information may be helpful. First, the alcohol issue remains a very difficult one to address. Attempting to balance various perspectives in a scenario where use is legal for some and illegal for others has proved to be a very sticky proposition. Moreover, WKU's history of absolute prohibition has presented certain inconsistencies which were, and to some extent still are, contentious.

For example, the report includes a recommendation to further discuss the possibility of serving alcohol in Nite Class in certain circumstances. It should be noted that three Task Force members oppose this. Given, the strong feelings on both sides of this issue, I believe it clearly warrants further discussion, including considerable student input.

A second potentially troublesome issue is the proposed policy regarding tobacco. The Task Force is fully aware of the political milieu in which the University functions. Nonetheless, there is virtual consensus that, given the facts about tobacco use, this policy is well designed to meet the University's needs, while guaranteeing the rights of all constituencies.

Finally, please be advised that this document does not include any reference to extended campuses; however, some sections may apply. Staff working directly with those campuses may be best suited to adapt and/or adopt appropriate measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to chair the Task Force; it has been challenging, but thoroughly worthwhile. I, and the others, stand ready to assist when you act on this report.

Enclosure

cc: Task Force Members  
J. Wilder

#### D. Student Organizations

1. All student organizations will include in their by-laws a statement detailing compliance with University policies, including alcohol and other drug policies, and with guidelines established by the Office of Student Activities and Organizations.
2. Student organizations will follow the Office of Student Activities and Organizations' guidelines for promotional materials, including materials used to recruit new members. Each organization will include in those materials reference to its own standards on alcohol and other drug use as well.

#### E. Enforcement

1. The University will comply fully with federal, state, and local laws concerning the use of alcohol and other drugs. Violators will be subject to ~~criminal prosecution and administrative procedure~~ 7-8/81

The consequences of administrative procedure will vary depending upon the circumstances of a given case. Both individual and group sanctions will be appropriate for the offense.

A range of possible consequences for illicit involvement with alcohol or other drugs by students, student organizations, and University employees will be published and distributed through the offices of the Dean of Student Life, Student Activities and Organizations, and Personnel Services respectively.

#### II. Tobacco

The use of tobacco in the learning and working environment holds implications for both the user and the non-user. For example, smokers have the right to smoke, and non-smokers have the right to smoke-free air. Behaviors associated with chewing tobacco, e.g., spitting, also impact others. These policies and procedures have been developed with the protection of the rights of all individuals in mind.

- A. Existing state fire and insurance regulations require that smoking be prohibited in all office buildings, classrooms, laboratories, elevators, or other areas designated by no smoking signs.
- B. The University recognizes the finding of the Surgeon General, which is supported by the American College

Health Association, that tobacco use in any form, active and passive, is a significant health hazard. Moreover, the following facts are recognized:

- Kentucky has the highest smoking related death rate in the nation;
- tobacco use is responsible for an estimated 10% of medical care costs;
- health insurance costs are significantly impacted by the use of tobacco products;
- non-smokers are adversely affected when they breathe second-hand smoke.

Therefore, the use of tobacco products in some University settings is prohibited:

1. The use of tobacco products is prohibited on all floors of office buildings, and in all classrooms and University facilities, except in designated smoking areas.
2. All eating establishments on campus will designate smoking and non-smoking areas. These areas will be clearly marked and posted with information regarding channels for communicating complaints.
3. All University departments will establish appropriate smoking and non-smoking areas, within policy guidelines. These areas will be marked with signs, or otherwise clearly identified.
4. Smoking is prohibited at indoor public events, except in designated areas.
5. Smoking in public or group work environments, e.g., faculty/staff meetings, is prohibited, except where the group agrees, by consensus, to permit smoking, and the meeting location is a designated smoking area.
6. In residence halls, rooms and suites are tobacco free areas, except where residents mutually decide otherwise. If residents fail to agree, the room or suite remains tobacco free.
7. In all buildings other than Residence Halls, half of all restroom facilities, for men and for women, will be designated non-smoking. Appropriate signs will be posted to clearly communicate the status

of a given restroom.

In most cases reasonable requests to comply with policy will be honored. Cooperation and shared understanding of all members of the campus community are essential to the success and acceptance of these policies, which are designed for the mutual benefit of those who use tobacco as well as those who don't.

Administrative personnel and faculty are charged with the responsibility of enforcing these regulations in their respective areas. In the event of conflicts, existing channels are to be used to achieve resolution. Faculty and staff should consult Personnel Policy #6-8 or #6-10 for grievance procedures.