

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Chancellor
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



February 28, 2008

President B. Joseph White
364 HAB
MC-346

Dear Joe:

So that you have the correct information, I am providing a brief summary of actions we have taken and are taking with regard to "Unofficial St. Patrick's Day."

We have had a working group composed of my staff, the mayors of Champaign and Urbana, representatives from the Office of the Provost, Dean of Students and Student Affairs, Public Safety officials from campus and the cities, Interfraternity Council student representatives and Public Affairs who have been working on the management of this kind of event for over two years. (Contrary to some reports, we did not just start working on this in the few weeks prior to the event.) I commissioned a study by this group and received recommendations that were implemented last year and refined for this year's event. This group will be meeting again in two weeks to review this year's event and to outline a plan for the elimination of this event. Given that this event is not under our control, the steps to eliminate it will have to be taken over a number of years and thoughtful consideration will need to be given to all of the complexities of dealing with an event that we did not create.

I have had conversations with the local mayors and we sent an early joint letter to parents to make them aware of the event and ask that they speak to their children who are students here. We have enacted policies to prohibit guests from staying in Campus Housing over this weekend. Our faculty have been advised against cancelling classes and we have increased patrols to monitor the most heavily impacted academic buildings and assist instructional staff with any disturbances. An orientation was held yesterday afternoon for the classroom/lecture hall monitors with presentations by staff from my office, campus police and the Office of the Provost.

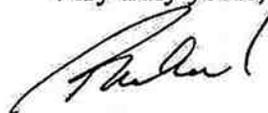
I have had private conversations with the Mayor of Champaign to encourage him to enact stiffer regulations during the event. I addressed a working session of the Champaign City Council earlier this week asking them to take steps to help control this event. I also requested additional presence and bar sweeps by the State Liquor Control Commission during the event. There will be increased police presence by Champaign, Urbana and the University Police. Finally, I sent a mass email to our undergraduate students, encouraging responsible behavior for those who choose to participate.

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As we look to the future, I will continue to work with the Mayor of Champaign and the City Council to ask them to take responsible actions to limit the possibilities for these sorts of events in the future. The primary action that can be taken is to raise the age of entry for local bars to 21, from the current age of 19. We can also explore passing the costs to the bar owners for added security required as result of the event. Stiffer penalties for underage consumption are also a possibility.

The primary motivation behind all of these initiatives is the safety of our students, faculty and staff with a primary goal to end an event that damages the reputation of this institution and our community. I appreciate any advice or assistance you might wish to provide.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Herman", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Herman
Chancellor

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RECEIVED
AUG 27 2006

OFFICE of the PROVOST

Date: August 11, 2006

To: Stephen Barnes
Mike Bily
Mariam Birouti
Jeffrey Brown
Sophie Doroba
Kris Fitzpatrick
Scott Friedlein
Barry Glass
Tracey Herbert
Carol Humpherys

Kristi Kuntz
Sarah Macdonald
Clark McPhail
Laurel Prussing
Margaret Rawles
Bill Riley
Jim Rooney
Adam Schwartz
William Simmons
Jeff Unger

From: Richard Herman
Chancellor

Subject: Task Group to Address "Unofficial St. Patrick's Day" and Similar Events

As you know, every March, several bars in the campustown area promote an event they call "Unofficial St. Patrick's Day." Inappropriate behavior associated with this event has become increasingly troublesome in its effect on our regularly scheduled academic courses, on the safety of those who take part in it, and on the safety of uninvolved, innocent people.

The campus administration began exploring options to address the problem and the Urbana-Champaign Faculty Senate passed a resolution calling on me to establish a commission of students, faculty and staff to study the effects of this event and recommend actions we might take to reduce or eliminate them. I am requesting your service on the task group that will recommend ways to achieve that goal.

The cities and the University are working together to address this issue, so your recommendations should include solutions such as enacting ordinances, policies, and programs designed to better address the safety of members of the community, both on and off the campus. The recommendations should include ways in which individual people and identified groups can better demonstrate responsibility for their behavior, especially their influence on others. Since alcohol abuse is a significant component of events such as Unofficial St. Patrick's Day, recommendations should be offered within the context of existing laws, regulations, and the Student Code.

Margaret Rawles, Associate Chancellor, has agreed to serve as chair of the group, and will be contacting you in the near future to schedule the first meeting. I would like the committee to forward its recommendation for actions to me by November 10, 2006. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

c: I. Adesida	P. Kaufman
V. Burton	S. Mangelsdorf
S. Carter	R. Romano
R. Easter	B. Schwartz
T. Gallagher	J. Schweighart
A. Ghosh	J. Unsworth
R. Graves	B. Walden
H. Hurd	R. Wheeler
M. Kalantzis	H. Whiteley
L. Katehi	R. Yates