President’s Commission on Substance Abuse Prevention (PCSAP)
Recommendations for President Cruzado’s Consideration

“Creating a healthier living and learning environment at Montana State University that is safe, responsible, and legal.”

#1. Campus/community coalition – The PSCAP learned that there are many programs, policies, and people focused on creating healthier living and learning environments on campus and in the City of Bozeman. Many times, the Commission would hear similar (or identical) concerns and ideas expressed in various meetings from different stakeholders. There is no centralized structure bringing these campus and community programs and stakeholders together on a regular basis to share ideas and resources, to improve relationships, and to promote ongoing communication regarding issues related to substance use and misuse.

**Recommendation #1** – Establish a highly collaborative, inclusive and dynamic Campus Alcohol and Substance Abuse Committee (CASAC) to institutionalize ongoing efforts regarding harm reduction programs and the shift of student life alcohol culture. This new Committee will meet on a regular basis to share ideas and best practices, review policies and programs, and to foster internal and external communication among campus departments and stakeholders.

Responsibilities include oversight of the federal requirements in the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994 biannual review (http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/9900stateresport/index.html), ongoing assessment of alcohol/drug programs and policies, and future recommendations for changes to campus policies and practices on substance abuse prevention to the Vice President for Student Success. The Committee will apply evidence-based and evidence-informed practices in line with national standards established by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Department of Education’s National Center for Safe and Supportive Learning Environments to all future recommendations for policies and program changes.

Under the leadership of the Vice President for Student Success and a member of the MSU faculty, this Committee will meet a minimum of five (5) times during the academic year (ideally over the lunch hour). The CASAC will be supported by the lead staff person addressing alcohol and drugs on campus in Student Health Advancement.

Since students are critical in reshaping campus culture with regarding to new policies, educational opportunities, and important enforcement efforts, it is critical to have a variety of students represented on the CASAC. While it makes sense to have the CASAC determine membership on an ongoing basis, our recommendation for initial committee membership includes:

**Leadership** - Vice President for Student Success (co-chair) & a Faculty member (co-chair), preferably with an academic or research background in substance misuse or addiction. This appointment will be made by the MSU President (and/or the MSU Provost) after consultation with the Faculty Senate chair.

**Staff** - Director of MSU Health Advancement (Committee Staff)

**Members** –

ASMSU President or ASMSU Vice-President

Students - Three (3) appointed by the ASMSU President
Faculty - Three (3) appointed by the Faculty Senate President
Dean of Students
Director of MSU Counseling and Psychological Services
Director of MSU Insight (MSU's alcohol and drug education program)
Member of the City of Bozeman Commission
Member of the MSU/City of Bozeman's Good Neighbor Program
Member of the University Police Department
Member of Bozeman Police Department
Member from the Interfraternity Council
Member from the Panhellenic Council
Member of the Inter-Hall Residence Hall Association
Member of the Intercollegiate Athletics Department
Member of Auxiliary Services
Member appointed by the Executive Director of University Communications
Member appointed by the Superintendent of Bozeman Schools
Member of the Gallatin County DUI Task Force
Member of the Downtown Business Association
Member of the Montana Taverns Association

#2. University value statement on substance use – During testimony, a number of experts in the alcohol and drug field suggested that MSU needs a public statement about alcohol and substance use to help guide and shape the work the University does with students, especially at their transition from high-school to college and during their first year. This value statement should unite campus-wide efforts to address substance use and strategically shape how campus approaches substance use during a student’s time at MSU. Members of the Commission had preliminary discussions on this idea, and we considered a starting point for a future statement on “Safe, Responsible, and Legal” consumption of alcohol and other drugs.

Recommendation #2 – Under the leadership of the newly established CASAC, establish a subcommittee of no less of four members (one should be a student) to develop a University value statement that will guide our work for shifting campus culture and promoting harm reduction strategies for substance misuse. This subcommittee should be charged with providing an annual communication plan to the campus community about this statement. The PCSAP created a DRAFT University value statement that is included at the end of this report.

#3. Downtown Bozeman issues/concerns - PCSAP members interviewed students during a “field trip” to downtown locations that served alcohol on a Friday evening. One theme that emerged was the lack of frequent public transportation. Students were highly concerned about drinking and driving but expressed frustration about public transportation options. According to some students, the Late Night bus service picks up too infrequently and takes too long. Others were also concerned about repercussions of leaving vehicles downtown because of the City’s overnight “no parking” policy. Finally, PCSAP members became acutely aware of the amount of drinking that occurred in a rapid fashion as a result of nightly drink specials at certain establishments during the evening.

Recommendations #3 -
1. Appoint a four-person subcommittee of the new CASAC to explore the possibilities for improving late-night transportation options in Bozeman. At least one of the four subcommittee members should be a student and one should be a member from Streamline.
2. This subcommittee should also explore options with staff from the City of Bozeman to improve parking regulations for individuals who decide to leave their car downtown after consuming too much alcohol to safely and legally drive home. This should include pursuing additional ways to communicate with students on the existing downtown parking regulations and options to decrease drinking and driving.

3. This subcommittee should facilitate discussions with the Bozeman Tavern Owners Association on ways to promote safer drinking practices that reduce the likelihood of unsafe consumption of alcohol.

#4. Improve support for Recovering Students and the INSIGHT Program – One concern that surfaced during our meetings was the lack of institutional support available to students in recovery for alcoholism and substance misuse and addiction. Traditional-aged students are susceptible to developing dangerous and unhealthy habits when they use and misuse alcohol and other drugs, and the University can do a better job in responding to those students by supporting student efforts to develop a community of recovering students. With increased growth comes increased diversity in students’ prior experiences. To uphold its dedication to access, MSU needs to be preemptive in providing support to non-traditional and traditional-aged students who are recovering from issues related to substance misuse.

**Recommendations #4**-

1. Under the leadership of the CASAC, appoint a four (4) person subcommittee to explore the possibility of developing a community center for students in recovery. This new center could also house the current Insight program, staff and students.

2. MSU should work to support a student organization for Students in Recovery, using as models nationally recognized Centers for Students in Recovery developed on other campuses.

3. A future center should offer regular programming and training to various campus organizations and student leaders. Regular programming and training from this Center should be included annually during RA Training, Fraternity/Sorority risk management sessions, student-athlete orientations, and ASMSU fall retreats.

#5. University Student Conduct Program – The PCSAP had discussions with staff from both the Department of Residence Life and the Dean of Students’ office about protocol after a student commits an alcohol or drug violation under the Student Conduct Code. While both departments seem to be doing an adequate job at providing additional educational opportunities and sanctions when students violate the Code, MSU needs a more integrated and seamless approach when responding to these violations.

**Recommendations #5** –

1. Merge the current student conduct programs in Residence Life, the Dean of Students’ office, and Intercollegiate Athletics to create one seamless University Student Conduct Program.

2. Create common sanctioning guidelines to ensure that sanctioning outcomes from violations in the Residence Halls and the Dean of Students’ office have parity.

*** Much of this work occurred during AY 2014-2015 ***
#6. Student Transition Programs – During our interviews, it became clear that off-campus residential locations (i.e., Sophomore and Junior “house parties”) are the epicenter of high risk drinking by underage MSU students in Bozeman. According to the 2013-14 Alcohol EDU data, 62% of MSU students report drinking at an off campus residence as compared to the National average of 41%. Additionally, 19% of MSU students report riding with a driver who had been drinking compared to 10% nationally. Finally, 14% of MSU students reporting driving after consuming 4 or more drinks versus only 7% doing so nationally. Through the Good Neighbor Committee (GNC), MSU and the City of Bozeman piloted “Living in the Community” workshops in the spring of 2014. The GNC’s “Living in the Community” workshops provided students with information and resources on Bozeman laws governing noise, public disturbance, public drinking and other related issues. The pilot program also provided resources about how to throw safe, responsible, and legal parties with alcohol at off-campus residential locations.

Recommendations #6 –
1. CASAC will work with and support the current 15-member Good Neighbor Committee, (GNC). The GNC is an existing partnership between MSU and the City of Bozeman both financially and programmatically. The GNC has been active since April 2012.
2. CASAC will provide advice and support to the GNC on its “Living in the Community” program.
3. CASAC and the GNC will collaborate on evaluating resources and education provided to students transitioning to off-campus housing on a regular basis.

#7 Assessment of mandatory educational programs on substance abuse, sexual assault and alternative substance-free programs - PCSAP conducted brief reviews of existing mandatory substance programs required for students during their first-year at MSU-Bozeman. While PCSAP fully concurs that MSU should require all incoming students to complete some type of alcohol, drug, and sexual assault training, our Commission heard multiple reports from students that the currently required program (Alcohol.Edu) is not effective and out of date with contemporary standards.

In Summer 2014, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for the Montana University System mandated that all new full-time and part-time, transfer, undergraduate and graduate students must complete authorized programs in alcohol education and sexual assault awareness and prevention. The current program is the Everfi product Alcohol EDU and Haven.

Recommendations #7 -
1. The lead ATOD staff member on campus will provide an annual report on the status, effectiveness and compliance rates of the current product used by MSU to comply with the OCHE mandate. That staff member will involve students in this review process.
2. Consider establishing additional resources for late-night activities that are on-campus and substance-free. Provide additional support to improve existing programs such Midnight Mania and Legend of the Bobcat.
3. Establish a better online calendar or clearinghouse of activities and a better way to use social media to broadcast the many healthy and substance-free activities for students at MSU to ensure that students are aware of existing programs.
#8 Improvements during MSU football games – One area of concern for high risk drinking is during home MSU football games in the tailgate area, especially during halftime. Many of the fans that attend MSU football games exit the stadium during halftime and go to the tailgate area. Many stakeholders interviewed during PCSAP meetings noted that the highest amount of alcohol consumption during football games occurs at half time.

In 2012, MSU began serving beer and wine during concerts and rodeo events in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, in part to discourage attendees from drinking prior to the events and then driving to campus. Current MSU policy states that beer and wine sales are discontinued half-way through the event to ensure plenty of time before attendees departs the venue. MSU Auxiliaries and MSU Police believe on-site beer and wine sales have decreased the number of alcohol incidents involved with these activities. Beer and wine sales at Brick Breeden offer an example of potential changes to beer sales at Bobcat Stadium. MSU currently serves alcohol in the “club” section of the stadium during football games. Moving alcohol consumption from an all-you-can-bring model in the tailgating area to one in which servers could decline sales to intoxicated patrons may reduce overconsumption at games.


Recommendations #8:
1. Similar to other major Division I football stadium policies (West Virginia University, University of Minnesota), MSU should develop a plan to study the feasibility for a “no re-entry” policy for ticket holders during home football games.
2. As part of this feasibility study, MSU should gather appropriate data that would assess the benefits and liabilities associated with selling beer in the non-club sections of the stadium.
3. This study should be started in Summer 2016 and be conducted by the Center for Health and Safety Culture at Montana State University. The full CASAC should review the findings from this study in Spring 2017 and make a recommendation on any policy changes.
4. If the decision is ever made to adopt a no re-entry policy and to implement beer sales in the non-club section of Bobcat Stadium, a portion of the new revenue generated from beer sales in the stadium will be donated to additional risk-reduction and alcohol educational programs for students at MSU.
5. The Commission fully endorses additional levels of enforcement of currently existing tailgating policies that reduce high risk drinking starting immediately.

#9 Alcohol reforms at MSU Fraternities- Up until the late 1970s, it was commonplace for MSU fraternities and sororities to employ a chapter “house mother.” Most fraternities at MSU stopped this practice in the 1970s, as there was no University requirement for chapters to have a live-in mentor/mother. Currently, one MSU fraternity (Sigma Phi Epsilon) and all four MSU sororities have a live-in house mentor/mother. Sigma Chi fraternity will pilot a House Mentor position during Summer 2015.

Recommendation #9
1. Integration of House Mentors. All fraternity and sorority chapters with housing facilities at Montana State University will have a University approved House Mentor residing in the chapter facility during the academic year and during the summer (if the facility is occupied). The Dean of Students’ office will establish necessary qualifications and expectations for
chapter House Mentors and annually approve the appointment of the House Mentor in accordance with established qualifications and expectations. Based upon the potential financial impact having a House Mentor will have on the overall financial operations for a fraternity or sorority, the Dean of Students will have discretion to phase in this requirement based upon demonstrated financial implications on individual chapters.

The House Mentor will be expected to participate in regular meetings with the Assistant Dean of Fraternity/Sorority Life in the Dean of Students’ office and attend all appropriate trainings and workshops. Similar to the system for those chapters that currently employ a house mentor/mother, funding for the House Mentor will be the responsibility of each chapter, with additional support from the University as funding becomes available.

#10 Reform to the State of Montana’s Privacy Law (20-25-515)

The US Congress passed significant changes to the Federal Right to Privacy Act (FERPA) through the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. One of these changes included the ability for colleges or universities to notify parents when an underage student (under the age of 21) has committed a disciplinary violation of the institution’s alcohol or drug policy. Since 1998, many schools across the country have created parental notification programs to notify parents or guardians when their student has committed an alcohol or drug violation (Lowery, 2005).

While the Federal Government has offered permissions to colleges and universities to notify parents when an alcohol or drug violation has occurred, the State of Montana’s current privacy law is more restrictive than the federal law and prevents post-secondary institutions in Montana from doing so. Research indicates (Turrisi, et al, 2013; Palmer, et al., 2001) that parental notification programs are a promising best practice and an effective way to help improve alcohol and drug culture on our campuses.

To date, only two states remain that do not allow for parental notification programs (Montana and Oregon).

**Recommendation #10**-

1. Ask President Cruzado to create a work group to study the feasibility of updating parental notification policies in Montana. This work group might include representation beyond MSU from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the University of Montana. This work group should be charged to explore the possibility of supporting a modification to current State of Montana privacy law to allow colleges and universities in the MUS system to notify parents when minor students violate the campus alcohol or drug policy, in compliance with the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. The goal is to further promote student success by creating opportunities for the right sort of student involvement and support.