A number of incidents on the Pacific campus during the first three months of the fall 2007 semester have raised concerns about responsible student decision making with regard to alcohol and other drug use. The number of transports for public intoxication has increased, reported incidents of marijuana use on campus have increased, incidents of highly publicized acquaintance rape have been linked to alcohol use, and two students were recently dismissed for dealing drugs on campus. These incidents on the Pacific campus are viewed in the context of a March 2007 study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, which reported that 3.8 million full-time college students, or 49 percent, regularly abuse drugs or binge drink, which is defined as five or more drinks at a time for men, and four or more drinks for women. Last spring, the U.S. Surgeon General issued the office’s first call to action to stem underage drinking, with recommendations for parents, schools, colleges, communities, governments and even the alcohol industry on how to stop the abuse. Among other recommendations, the Surgeon General asked colleges to end alcohol advertising in campus newspapers; provide more alcohol-free late-night events; shift more classes to Friday to “shorten the elongated weekend” that has students binge drinking by Thursday night; and foster a culture in which alcohol is not central to students’ college experience.

The level of concern at Pacific is such that with this announcement, we are convening a high level, representative task force to study alcohol and substance abuse at the University and to make recommendations that will address education, prevention, enforcement, treatment, and referral programs to impact both the campus climate and student decision making processes that lead to abusive behaviors.

**Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force Charge:**

The University of the Pacific Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force is charged with, but its scope is not limited to, assessing the campus culture and student behaviors related to alcohol and other drug use; reviewing and making recommendations regarding policies and
enforcement procedures; identifying and evaluating current education and intervention programs to ensure utilization of evidence based strategies; examining the role alcohol and other drugs play in sexual misconduct and other violence and making recommendations for education and prevention in this area; and recommending any additional treatment, referral, and resource needs to broaden prevention efforts.

A. Assessment
   a. Determine baseline measures for assessing the extent of students’ alcohol and other drug patterns of use and perceptions of use
   b. Examine the University’s archival data related to alcohol and substance abuse. Sources may include, but are not limited to:
      i. Public Safety
      ii. Housing and Greek Life
      iii. Cowell Wellness Center
      iv. Past assessments of alcohol and other drug use
   c. Identify how students’ behavior and patterns of use compare to like institutions

B. Environment
   a. Study the informal and formal messages regarding the culture of alcohol conveyed to prospective students, parents, current students, and student organizations
   b. Appraise campus social host policies and practices
   c. Review campus policies related to advertising and sponsorship of alcoholic beverages
   d. Examine access and availability of alcohol, especially as it relates to students under the age of twenty-one

C. Policies and Enforcement
   a. Review current policies to ensure consistency across the campus, as well as applicable federal, state and local laws
   b. Examine how these policies are communicated to prospective and current students, as well as student organizations
   c. Examine campus enforcement practices and resulting sanctioning

D. Education
   a. Review current education and prevention programs related to alcohol, other drug and violence prevention
   b. Examine current intervention strategies for policy violators
   c. Determine healthy alternative activities and resource needs
   d. Review treatment and referral programs and approaches
Task Force Composition

Heather Dunn Carlton, Director of Judicial Affairs, Chair

Student Members
Max Barrosa, Vice President, ASuop
Justen Beffa, Resident Assistant, Housing & Greek Life
Erin Birmingham, Editor-in-Chief, Pacifican
Danielle Neault, PSAC President
Alex Ruano, Undergraduate Student, English Major

Staff Members
Bill Barry, Sergeant, Public Safety
Maisha Beasley, Director, New Student Programs
Santiago Gayton, Graduate Residence Director, Sigma Chi, Housing & Greek Life
Karen Mendoza, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Danny Nuss, Coordinator, Educational Resource Center
Charlene Patterson, Associate & Training Director, Counseling Services
Tracy Patton, Coordinator Tutorial Services, SUCCESS / Alumna
Mary Ann Pearson, Student Victim Advocate, Public Safety
Holly Trexler, Assistant Director, Student Athletic Services
Shauna Young, Area Coordinator, Housing & Greek Life

Faculty Members
Carolynn Kohn, Assistant Professor, Psychology
Bruce Peltier, Professor, Dental Practice

Parent
Deborah Britten

The Alcohol and Substance Task Force is expected to provide opportunities for campus and community involvement, including focus groups and community forums.

Task Force Timeline:
The Alcohol and Substance Abuse Task Force will meet bi-weekly, with sub-groups meeting on alternate weeks. The Task Force will bring its recommendations for consideration to the Vice President for Student Life by the end of the 2007-2008 academic year.