Florida Atlantic University

Student Government

Boca Raton House of Representatives

5th Legislative Session

BRHR-11-13

"More Sensible Cannabis Policies"

Author(s): Elizabeth Hodapp
           Subrina Koramblyum
           David Aarons

Sponsor(s): David Aarons
            Boris Bastidas

WHEREAS: Alcohol and marijuana are the two most popular recreational substances among the college student population. Every objective study on marijuana has concluded that marijuana is safer than alcohol both for the user and for society. Marijuana is far less toxic, far less addictive, and causes far less harm to the body than alcohol, and – unlike alcohol – it has not been found to contribute to violent, aggressive, or reckless behavior, and;

WHEREAS: Substantial research has concluded that the use of alcohol directly contributes to incidences of: fatal overdose, injury, fighting, physical abuse, sexual assault, and date rape, as well as destructive behavior, vandalism and property damage. There has never been a substantiated marijuana overdose death in recorded history, and the substance is widely accepted as virtually non-toxic, and;

WHEREAS: The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) estimates that each year, there are approximately 1,700 alcohol-related student deaths, 600,000 alcohol-related student injuries, 700,000 alcohol-related assaults involving students, and 100,000 reported cases of sexual assault involving alcohol. No such statistics are associated with student marijuana use, and;

WHEREAS: If students are caught with cannabis, there is currently a two strike system in place. The first violation includes termination of Housing Contract (yet students are still financially responsible), being placed on Student Conduct Probation for one year, mandatory completion of evaluation and treatment from the Counseling Center, parental notification, mandatory completion of 25 hours of Community/University service and completion of an educational program and a fine to pay the administrative costs for providing this program. The second violation includes the completion of 50 hours of Community/University service, deferred suspension for one academic year, completion of an educational program and a fine to pay the administrative costs for providing this program, and;

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.
WHEREAS: Students caught illegally consuming alcohol currently have a much more lenient system in place. The first violation includes the completion of an educational program and a fine to pay the administrative costs for providing this program, five to fifteen hours of community service, and the parents of the student may or may not be notified. The second violation incudes the completion of evaluation and recommended treatment from Counseling Center, deferred termination of University Housing Contract/Assignment for a period of one year, parental notification, Student Conduct Probation for at least 1 semester, Completion of 15 - 30 hours of Community/University Service, and completion of an educational program and a fine to pay the administrative costs for providing this program. The third violation includes the termination of Housing Contract/Assignment, parental notification, Student Conduct Probation for 1 year, completion of up to 50 hours of Community/University Service and completion of an educational program and a fine to pay the administrative, and;

WHEREAS: The penalties currently in place for students caught in possession of cannabis are improperly severe and much harsher than those in place in respect to illegal alcohol use. The three strike system associated with alcohol violations cannot result in suspension or expulsion from the University, while students can be expelled for marijuana use, and;

WHEREAS: Students caught in possession of marijuana can be kicked out of housing on their first strike, while those illegally drinking alcohol are only at risk of incurring the same penalty on their third violation, and;

WHEREAS: Possession of alcohol by a minor is a misdemeanor, and possession of under twenty grams of marijuana is also a misdemeanor, and;

WHEREAS: Students are penalized much more harshly for marijuana, a drug so benign that no one has died from its use, yet, under aged drinking, a far more dangerous activity, has much more lenient punishments. These policies are unjust because they do not accurately reflect the crimes committed, NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: It is the opinion of the Boca Raton House Of Representatives that the sanctions imposed by Florida Atlantic University for the use and possession of marijuana should be NO greater than the sanctions imposed for the use and possession of alcohol, and that students should not face suspension or removal from student housing for the use and possession of up to twenty grams of marijuana.

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Aarons - Yes  
Allen - Absent  
Anastasi - No  
Arsolino - No  
Boyndman - No  
Dunne - Yes  
Joseph - Yes  
Lambert - Yes  
Lupo - Absent  
Maceus - Yes  
Maher - No  
McCoy - Yes  
Montes - No  
Nicotra - Yes  
Phillips - No  
Rattray - Absent  
Rosario - Yes  
Sosa - No  
Varela - Yes  
Wu - Absent  
Bastidas - Yes  

BRHR-11-13 PASSED on this 22nd day of July, 2011 by a vote of 10 YES and 7 NO  

Signature – House Speaker
Legislation Signature Sheet

This Bill / Resolution # BRHR-11-13 PASSED FAILED on this 22nd day of July, 2011 by a vote of 10 YES, 7 NO, 0 ABSTAIN
moved by Aarons and seconded by Dwayne
Signature – House Speaker: [Signature]

This Bill / Resolution is hereby ENACTED VETOED on this 24th day of July, 2011
Signature – Campus Governor: Ryan Ebanks
12+0 Override – July 29th

This Bill / Resolution is hereby ENACTED VETOED on this 4th day of August, 2011
Signature – Student Body President: [Signature]

For All Legislation, Pursuant to University Regulation 4.006:
This Bill / Resolution is APPROVED SENT BACK FOR RECONSIDERATION on this 15th day of August, 2011
Signature – Vice President for Student Affairs: Dr. Charles Brown

This Bill / Resolution is received and recorded by the Student Government Student Court on this 11th day of August, 2011

[Signature]