

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

ALCOHOL and OTHER DRUG POLICY for Students

Implementation May 19, 2019

(Revised January, 2019)

General Statement

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is a campus where we place a high priority on the health and safety of all members of the campus community – students, faculty, staff and visitors. The Institute strives to provide an environment where all students are able to pursue their dreams and aspirations. At the same time, we face stark realities regarding the harm often caused by the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs in communities around us and on our campus. In light of the risks and dangers presented by the use and abuse of alcohol and other drugs by students, we develop, promulgate, and enforce policies, procedures and accountabilities that reflect our institutional values.

The Institute's aim is to maintain an alcohol and other drug policy that is clear in its expectations; applies in an appropriate manner across student residential and organizational affiliations; informs and educates individuals with regard to the policy and the risk factors associated with use or abuse; creates an environment that promotes safety and individual accountability; and maintains a healthy campus community where problems associated with alcohol and other drugs are minimal.

The overall philosophy of the Institute is that individuals and organizations in the Rensselaer community are responsible for their own actions. When making decisions to consume an alcoholic beverage or to provide alcoholic beverages to others, individuals and organizations must be mindful of the inherent consequences and risks involved. In addition, they are responsible for understanding and complying with applicable laws. The Institute will not shield individuals or organizations from the legal consequences of their actions should they choose to violate these laws.

This policy applies as stated, regardless of state, locality or other jurisdiction in which the offense occurs. The regulations in this policy are designed to encourage consistent and reasonable standards in our campus community. It is expected that all members will contribute to maintaining a positive and healthy living and learning environment by adhering to this policy.

I. STATE AND LOCAL LAW RELATING TO ALCOHOL

Laws relating to alcohol exist at both the state and local level, and can result in severe penalties, including imprisonment. While Rensselaer-related activities to which this policy applies can occur in any jurisdiction, including international locations, the following are examples for illustrative purposes only:

- **New York State Law**
– prohibits consumption and possession of alcohol by persons under 21 years of age, and the providing of alcohol to persons under 21, with the provider subject to both criminal sanctions and “dram shop” liability for injuries to third parties caused by the intoxicated minor;

- prohibits driving while intoxicated (DWI) at a blood alcohol level of .08, and driving while ability impaired at a blood alcohol rate of .05, both of which can result in fines and imprisonment; and

- prohibits anyone under 21 years of age from driving with as little as a .02 blood alcohol level, with a loss of license for six months or until the driver turns 21, whichever is longer.

- City of Troy Code

- Prohibits open containers of alcohol in public or in vehicles;

- Requires a permit to sell alcohol, and for the holding of private “house parties” where admission is charged or any food or beverages are sold.

II. INSTITUTE REGULATIONS ON ALCOHOL

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of alcohol is prohibited on Institute property or as part of any activity sanctioned or sponsored by the Institute. The administration at Rensselaer will not authorize events where drinking under the legal age, as determined by applicable law, will be knowingly permitted. Individuals and organizations who sponsor approved events involving alcoholic beverages shall assume full responsibility and liability for the event and for the behavior of event participants and attendees.

In our continuing commitment to adhere to Institute policy and applicable laws, any Rensselaer recognized student organization found to have served alcohol to an underage individual at any university or group sanctioned or sponsored activity (on or off campus) will, at minimum, be subject to suspension of two years (6 consecutive semesters). In addition, all organization alcohol privileges are subject to revocation while a group is under investigation and for the duration of the disciplinary process.

Note: Vaporizing, inhaling, and other methods of absorbing alcohol are also considered consumption of alcohol, and are also prohibited.

A. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited:

1. At all Institute owned, controlled, or affiliated residential facilities that house undergraduate students;
2. At the residential facilities of any recognized or affiliated student organizations, or groups, including but not limited to fraternities and sororities;
3. On campus, on Institute property, at Institute events, and at events or programs held or sponsored by the Institute or by Rensselaer student organizations, except in accordance with this policy by persons 21 years of age or older as follows:
 - At events held at approved locations, other than residential facilities described in A.1 and A.2 above, for which required approvals have been obtained pursuant to Section III and Section IV (D) of this policy;
 - In areas licensed for regular beer and wine service.

- B. Possession or consumption of alcohol by any person under age 21 on campus is a violation of this policy and the Rensselaer Grounds for Disciplinary Action (GDA) for students; such conduct on the part of an employee is a violation of Human Resources policies.
- C. Any person under age 21 who misrepresents her/his age in order to obtain alcohol has violated the GDA if that person is a student; such conduct on the part of an employee is a violation of Human Resources policies.
- D. Any person who supplies or makes alcohol available to someone under age 21 has violated this policy and the law. If that person is a student, they have violated the GDA; such conduct on the part of an employee is a violation of Human Resources policies.
- E. In accordance with state law, no money may be charged for any event at which alcoholic beverages are present unless a license or permit is obtained from the state liquor authority.
- F. An Institute alcohol permit must be obtained from the Alcohol Review Committee (c/o the Student Health Center) for any event occurring on Institute grounds at which alcohol is served or present. Exceptions are:
- Licensed designated area of Rensselaer Union; or
 - Buildings leased or rented to faculty, staff or private non-student groups
- G. The consumption of alcohol or possession of an open container of alcohol is prohibited in all generally accessible or common areas on campus, including but not limited to corridors, stairwells, athletic facilities, elevators, lounges, classrooms, labs or outside campus areas (i.e. Quad) unless an alcohol permit has been obtained for a designated area. At no time may alcohol be consumed in potentially hazardous environments.
- H. Displays of any alcohol related items or materials visible to the public; including but not limited to alcoholic beverage containers (empty or full), banners or signs are not allowed in any residential facility.
- I. Events shall not include any activity which encourages the use and/or abuse-of alcohol.
- J. The serving or availability of alcohol at events being held in or about an undergraduate or student organization residential facility as described in Section II (A) is prohibited.
- K. The presence, possession, or use of large quantities of alcohol on campus including but not limited to kegs, beer balls, or any other bulk containers of alcohol, is prohibited on Institute grounds with the exception of areas holding NYS license for beer and wine service.
- L. Beverages containing hard alcohol (defined as 15% or more alcohol by volume (ABV)) are prohibited at events involving students.
- M. Alcohol will not be permitted at Rensselaer athletic events.
- N. Off campus events: It is expected that all members of the Rensselaer community will comply with all governmental laws related to alcohol. Any Rensselaer group that plans an off campus event involving

alcohol must adhere to the Rensselaer Alcohol and Other Drug Policy for students. Faculty and staff must adhere to applicable Human Resources Policy.

O. Advertising of any event must not imply that the event is for the purpose of consuming alcohol and may not be displayed before the permit to serve alcohol is obtained. No specific mention of alcohol is allowed in the advertising. The words "beverages" and "refreshments" are acceptable.

P. At any event where alcohol is available, a non-alcoholic beverage (in addition to water) must be equally and continuously accessible and available.

Q. Alcohol may not be served at any event unless food is also served. The food should include items high in protein and carbohydrates.

R. The sponsor or host is responsible for implementing reasonable measures to ensure that alcohol is not served or made available to persons under age 21 or who are intoxicated. Sponsors must ensure that all alcoholic beverages are provided by a licensed third party vendor who will certify that all servers are properly trained. Contact the Alcohol Review Committee ("ARC") for training information.

S. The server(s) of alcohol will be sober and must not consume alcoholic beverages prior to, or during the event, or on the premises where the event is held.

T. Guests will not be allowed to bring additional alcohol to an event. The only alcohol permitted for consumption is that specified on the ARC permit.

U. "BYO" ("Bring Your Own" Alcohol) events will not be permitted.

V. Positive proof of age is required at any event at which alcohol is served and/or consumed. No licensee, or agent, or employee of such licensee shall accept as written evidence of age by any such person for the purchase or service of any alcoholic beverage, any documentation other than:

- (i) a valid driver's license or non-driver identification card issued by the commissioner of motor vehicle, the federal government, any United States territory, commonwealth or possession, the District of Columbia, a state government within the United States or a provincial government of the dominion of Canada, or
- (ii) a valid passport issued by the United States government or any other country, or
- (iii) an identification card issued by the armed forces of the United States.

W. The serving or availability of alcohol must be limited to a single designated point of service. Consumption of alcohol is only permitted in the approved area designated for the event.

X. Alcohol and Drug Policies for faculty and staff are contained in the Human Resources Policy Guidelines Manual (#800.4, Alcohol Use and Possession; and 800.5, Use and Possession of Illegal Drugs).

III. APPROVAL PROCEDURES FOR ON-CAMPUS EVENTS

A. Rensselaer requires that all groups obtain prior approval from the Alcohol Review Committee ("ARC") to serve alcoholic beverages anywhere on campus except when the activity is in an area covered by a food service license and is part of normal or daily operations. Approval of alcohol permits is NOT automatic.

Approval may be based on:

1. The nature of both the event and the facility.
2. The capacity of the facility.
3. Demonstration by the sponsoring organization of its ability to comply with State and Institute regulations.
4. Nearby scheduled activities.
5. The number of underage (younger than 21) participants; if the percentage of underage attendees is 20% or higher, the function will generally not be approved.
6. Where and how alcohol will be available.
7. The past history of event or sponsor.
8. Additional information may be requested by the ARC.

B. Campus events that are open to all students or where 20% or more of the attendees will be under age 21 will generally not be granted an alcohol permit.

C. Alcohol may only be served at approved events:

- On Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. until midnight;
- On Friday from 4 p.m. until 2 a.m. Saturday;
- On Saturday from 12 noon until 2 a.m. Sunday;
- On Sunday from 12 noon until 12 midnight.

EXCEPTIONS TO SERVE ALCOHOL AT TIMES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE IN SECTION III, D MUST BE APPROVED ONLY BY THE ALCOHOL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC). Events must be limited to FOUR (4) hours or less in duration.

D. The maximum amount of alcohol allowed at an event is calculated as follows: One serving per person age 21 or older per hour, not to exceed four hours.

E. Applications for an alcohol permit must be completed and submitted to the ARC c/o Student Health Center at least FIVE (5) calendar days in advance of the function. If you are using the campus food service provider (e.g., Sodexo), the request must be turned in at least TWENTY-FIVE (25) calendar days in advance of the function. APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES MAY NOT BE APPROVED.

F. Events where alcohol will be sold or admission is charged will require a NY State permit, unless alcohol service is provided by a vendor that has or will obtain a license to serve for the event. Therefore applications must be submitted to the ARC at least TWENTY-FIVE (25) calendar days in advance of the event to verify that appropriate protocols are in place for event management and the service of alcohol. If alcohol service is to be provided by a vendor, a copy of the license, permit, or other documentation required by the ARC or Dean of Students, demonstrating the existence of a valid license must be submitted to the ARC not less than FIFTEEN (15) calendar prior to the event.

G. The individual requesting or signing the application for an alcohol permit must be age 21 or older.

H. Permits must be picked up before and displayed during the event.

I. Events held on-campus must adhere to all rules relating to events specified in Section II of this Policy.

IV. SPECIFIC AREA POLICIES FOR ALCOHOL

A. Student Residence Halls

1. Only those graduate students of legal drinking age (21) residing in graduate-only residence halls may possess alcohol in the privacy of their rooms. If more than double the number of room occupants are present, event rules will apply, and an alcohol permit must be obtained from the ARC in accordance with section III of this policy.
2. Kegs, beer balls or bulk containers of any sort (both empty and full) are not allowed in residence facilities.
3. Displays of any alcohol related items or materials visible to the public, including but not limited to alcohol beverage containers (empty or full), banners or signs, are not allowed in any residence facility.
4. The consumption of alcohol or possession of an open container of alcohol is prohibited in all public or common areas in the residence halls including but not limited to, stairwells, hallways, lounges, etc.
5. Due to the nature of finals week and our belief that the hall environment should be conducive to study during that period, no alcohol permits will be granted in the Residence Halls or the surrounding areas during finals week (including reading days).

B. Rensselaer Union

1. The serving of beer and wine to persons 21 or older will be restricted to designated areas of the Rensselaer Union where a state license has been obtained.
2. The purchase of beer or wine in the designated area shall be limited to a single serving container per person with legal ID.
3. Any registered event/activity/function held in the Rensselaer Union where alcohol will be available must be approved by the ARC and be accompanied by an alcohol permit.
4. Management of the Rensselaer Union and the Executive Board will review policies and guidelines and recommend appropriate changes to the President or his/her designee in consultation with the ARC.

C. Sage Faculty/Staff Dining Hall

1. Special events where alcohol will be served will comply with Section III of the Institute Alcohol and Other Drug Policy.
2. Management of Faculty/Staff Dining Hall will review policies and guidelines and recommend appropriate changes to the Director of Business and Auxiliary Services. Changes to the policies may be implemented upon consultation with the President or his/her designee and the ARC.

D. Events with Alcohol Sponsored by Student Organizations, including Fraternities and Sororities.

An event, especially those including alcohol service, is deemed to be the responsibility of a student organization(s) when the details of the event indicate such. Examples of qualifying details include, but are not limited to, the number of members relative to the total organization membership and/or the number of attendees of the event; or, the event being funded by the organization or its members; or, the event is being controlled and/or facilitated and/or promoted by members of the organization. The

reference to student organizations includes, but is not limited to, recognized social fraternities and sororities.

Student organizations are subject to the following policies and guidelines established by the Institute and/or consistent with any regional or national umbrella affiliate or association (e.g., Interfraternity Council or Panhellenic Council, NIC) policies and regulations, whichever is most restrictive:

1. All events must comply with the rules for events set forth in Sections II and III of this Policy.
2. No hard alcohol (beverages with 15% or more ABV) is allowed at any student sponsored event.
3. Non-alcoholic beverages, in addition to water, must be made available by the host organization at any event where alcohol is available (section II, P).
4. Alcoholic beverages may not be purchased or brought into the event except by a licensed third party vendor (section II, E).
5. All events are restricted to a designated number of invited guests and not to exceed the legal limit of persons allowed in a facility or its common area, whichever is most restrictive.
6. Open social events are prohibited (An open social event is defined as any event for which no invitation is given and/or general advertising is used).
7. Alcohol service at any event must be by a licensed third-party vendor.
8. Any event sponsored, hosted or organized by a group, club, or organization, or members of, must be a registered with and approved by: the Associate Dean, Greek Life Commons, for social fraternity and sorority events; or the Associate Director, Student Activities, for events to be held by other student organizations. Event registration must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Hosting organization name;
 - b. Date, time and location of event including the length of the event;
 - c. Name/contact information of licensed third-party vendor who will serve at event;
 - c. Process used to notify neighbors, if in a residential area;
 - d. Designated contact person, cell phone number;
 - e. Membership list;
 - f. Invitation list;
 - g. Confirmed attendance list differentiating 21 and over and under 21 attendees;
 - h. Hand stamp or wrist band for attendees 21 or over
 - i. Personal identification required to verify date of birth (as described in, section II, V).
9. The event must be at an approved location other than the organization's residential facility or chapter house. If the event is to be held on campus, an alcohol permit must also be obtained from the ARC, pursuant to Section III of this policy.

V. THE LAW: STATUTES REGARDING OTHER DRUGS

Laws relating to drugs other than alcohol exist at the federal, state, and local level; violation of the laws of either jurisdiction can result in severe penalties, including imprisonment. While Rensselaer-related activities to which this policy applies can occur in any jurisdiction, including international locations, the following are examples for illustrative purposes only:

- Federal Law
 - Prohibits the manufacture, distribution or possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, including narcotics and marijuana, with criminal penalties that include fines and imprisonment;

- Provides for criminal penalties (fines, imprisonment) for providing controlled substances to persons under the age of 21, or for distributing near a school or university, that are up to twice as severe as for providing the substances to persons 21 or older.
- New York State Law
 - Also prohibits manufacture, distribution, or possession with intent to distribute controlled substances, as well as drug paraphernalia;
 - Provides for the seizure and forfeiture of any private vehicle used to transport a controlled substance.

VI. INSTITUTE REGULATIONS ON OTHER DRUGS

Rensselaer has implemented a zero tolerance drug policy which strictly prohibits:

- Possession, use, or facilitation of use of any “Prohibited Substances” or “Drug Paraphernalia” as defined herein; and
- Attempted or actual sale, manufacture, marketing, trafficking, or transfer of any Prohibited Substance, or Drug Paraphernalia.

Prohibited Substances are any of the following for which the individual does not have a legal license or valid prescription: any illegal drug, controlled substance (as defined by State and Federal law), or substance, or manner of use, that is generally recognized as being detrimental or dangerous to the health, welfare or safety of individuals or the community, although not necessarily illegal (including but not limited to Molly, Spice, K-2, whippets, performance enhancing drugs, prescription drugs, and research drugs).

Drug Paraphernalia is equipment, products, or materials primarily used for the purpose of making, using concealing, or distributing Prohibited Substances.

Students found responsible for any of the above behaviors are subject to the sanctions set forth herein.

Notwithstanding state law that may de-criminalize use and possession of marijuana in certain circumstances (e.g., the possession of a State-issued medical marijuana license, prescription or the equivalent), Rensselaer strictly prohibits the use, facilitation of use, consumption, possession, sale, manufacture, marketing, trafficking or transfer of marijuana or THC in any of its forms.

Any student with a disability who believes they may require access to a Prohibited Substance is required to contact the Office of Disability Services for Students to discuss accommodations and support.

Rensselaer is an educational institution and not a law enforcement agency, and therefore does not apply sanctions of the law. However, Rensselaer will not disregard the law and will not shield individuals from the legal consequences of their actions should they violate the law. In addition, individuals who have violated the law are also subject to disciplinary action. Students will be disciplined according to the procedures in this document and the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Pursuant to the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 the conviction of a student for any offense, during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving Title IV, HEA program funds, under

any federal or state law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs will result in the loss of eligibility for any Title IV, HEA grant, loan, or work study assistance (HEA Sec. 484(r) (1)); (20 U.S.C. 1091(r) (1)).

These Regulations on Other Drugs apply to all admitted students, including enrolled and non-enrolled students, for conduct that occurs both on- and off-campus and regardless of state, locality, or other legal jurisdiction. In addition, the potential loss of financial aid eligibility due to a drug-related conviction applies regardless of where the illegal conduct occurs.

A. ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS ON OTHER DRUGS

In addition to possible prosecution under state or federal laws, persons who violate the prohibitions of this policy will be subject to disciplinary sanctions that may include, but are not limited to, suspension, expulsion, and/or referral for possible prosecution by federal or state authorities. Any disciplinary sanction imposed may also include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program and other requirements as a condition of reinstatement.

1. Prohibited Substances Hearing Board.

Upon completion of the judicial inquiry, the Prohibited Substances Hearing Board has jurisdiction over appeals of findings issued and sanctions assigned concerning these Institute Regulations on Other Drugs. The Prohibited Substances Hearing Board shall be comprised of three Institute judicial hearing officers as designated by the Dean of Students. Appeals from decisions by the Prohibited Substances Hearing Board may be taken to the Review Board and President as described in the Handbook.

When an appeal is filed concerning an incident or series of related incidents that involves both a violation of Institute Regulations on Other Drugs and other Institute policies, the Prohibited Substances Hearing Board will review the appeal of both Institute Regulations on Other Drugs violation and such other Institute policies, with the following exceptions: a) any alleged violations of the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy will be handled in accordance with that policy, and b) if a judicial inquiry determines that a student did not violate the Institute Regulations on Other Drugs but that the student did violate other Institute policies, an appeal of the findings will be referred to the Student Judicial Board.

2. Mandatory Minimum Sanctions

The following shall be considered mandatory minimum sanctions:

A. For Trafficking Violations

Rensselaer has a zero tolerance policy for any student found to have engaged in the sale, manufacture, marketing, trafficking or transfer of any Prohibited Substance, including marijuana or THC, drug paraphernalia, or the intent and preparation to do so (hereinafter, trafficking). The penalty for students found to have engaged in such trafficking, including a first violation, will be expulsion from the Institute, without possibility of return.

B. For Use or Possession of Prohibited Substances (excludes marijuana/THC use)

In conformance with Rensselaer's zero tolerance drug use policy, any student found to have engaged in a violation of this policy related to the personal, non-trafficking use, consumption or

possession of a Prohibited Substance other than marijuana or THC use or prescription drug/over-the-counter medication misuse shall be subject to the following minimum sanctions:

- **First Violation – if no finding of habitual use:** Immediate suspension from the Institute for a term of not less than one (1) calendar year. After the expiration of such term of suspension, and provided the student has had no other suspensions, expulsions or involuntary withdrawals for violation of Rensselaer's or any other institution's drug policy, the student, may be permitted to re-apply for admission to Rensselaer. Reapplication for admission hereunder is subject to the terms for Disciplinary Suspension found in the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights & Responsibilities under the section entitled Types of Disciplinary Actions. Conditions for readmission may include, but are not limited to, mandatory educational programming and/or training, counseling, drug testing, supervision, restriction or loss of privileges, or other requirements. If such student is not granted permission to re-apply for admission, or where such re-application is denied, the student shall be deemed to have been expelled.
- **Second Violation, or First Violation with a finding of habitual use:** The student shall be immediately expelled from the Institute without the possibility of return.

A determination that a student is a habitual user of Prohibited Substances may occur through external police, internal Public Safety, Student Life or other information sources that make the condition known to the Administration of the Institute. Each allegation will be investigated and corroborated through whatever channels are available. Rensselaer, in its sole and exclusive discretion, reserves the right to obtain medical advice and assistance to determine whether the subject of the inquiry is a habitual user of any Prohibited Substance. Parents or guardians of the subject may be notified immediately of a person identified as being a habitual user of a Prohibited Substance and subject to this policy.

C. For Use or Possession of Marijuana/THC and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Any student found to have engaged in a violation of this policy relating to the personal, non-trafficking use, consumption or possession of marijuana/THC or possession of drug paraphernalia shall be subject to the following:

- **First Violation:** Sanctions as determined by the Rensselaer Judicial Process, including but not limited to, disciplinary probation, referral for required educational programming and training, substance use assessment, restriction or loss of privileges, or other requirements as severity of the offense dictates, including the loss of housing privileges, substance use assessment, required treatment, and/or drug testing.
- **Second Violation:** The student shall be suspended from the Institute for a term of not less than one (1) calendar year. After the expiration of such term of suspension, and provided the student has had no other suspensions, expulsions or involuntary withdrawals for violation of Rensselaer's or any other institution's drug policy, the student, may be permitted to re-apply for admission to Rensselaer. Reapplication for admission hereunder is subject to the terms for Disciplinary Suspension found in the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights & Responsibilities under the section entitled Types of Disciplinary Actions. Conditions for readmission may include, but are not limited to, mandatory educational programming and/or training, counseling, drug testing, supervision, restriction or loss of

privileges, or other requirements. If such student is not granted permission to re-apply for admission, or where such re-application is denied, the student shall be deemed to have been expelled.

VII. ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG POLICY RESPONSIBILITY AND ENFORCEMENT

- A. Adherence to these policies on alcohol and other drugs shall be the individual and personal responsibility of each member of the student body, student organization, staff, faculty or administration of the Institute.
- B. The responsibility of enforcement of the Institute Alcohol and Other Drug Policy resides with the President or his/her designee.

VIII. VIOLATIONS/SANCTIONS

- A. Violations of the Alcohol and Other Drug Policy by any student shall constitute a violation of the Grounds for Disciplinary Action. Person(s) shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the Institute.
- B. Possible sanctions are outlined for students in this document and the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and for employees in the Human Resources Policy Guidelines.
- C. Judicial Actions and sanctions for students under this Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy are subject to the Institute's Good Samaritan Policy and the provisions for Alcohol and Drug Use Amnesty in the Rensselaer Student Sexual Misconduct Policy.
- D. Violations by any faculty and staff members of the Human Resources Policy #800.4, Alcohol Use and Possession and/or #800.5, Use and Possession of Illegal Drugs shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including the termination of employment. Violations by vendors, contractors or visitors of this Policy may result in those individuals being prohibited from entering or remaining on campus facilities owned, leased or controlled by the Institute.

IX. INSTITUTE ALCOHOL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

The Alcohol Review Committee (ARC) has the following membership, operating parameters and responsibilities:

- A. Membership of the ARC consists of the following: Two students, two staff, two faculty and one chair; for a total membership of seven. Members are appointed by the Vice President for Student Life or his/her designee.
- B. Operating Parameters
 - 1. ARC Quorum: One student, one faculty, one staff and one chairperson;
 - 2. ARC Meetings: the ARC shall have at least six meetings annually; in or around September, October, November, February, March and April;

3. The terms of committee appointment: faculty and staff committee members shall be appointed for two years. Student members shall be appointed annually.

C. Responsibilities: Representatives of the Student Health Center will assume primary responsibility for items 1 – 6 below, but will bring before the Alcohol Review Committee exceptional cases and considerations. The Alcohol Review Committee will assume primary responsibility for items 7 and 8 below.

1. Developing procedures and guidelines for events where alcohol is present;
2. Determining criteria for approving events at which alcohol is present;
3. Reviewing applications for events at which alcohol is present;
4. Soliciting and accepting reports from individuals and groups about violations, complaints and policy effectiveness;
5. Referring violators into the judicial system;
6. Developing enforcement procedures in consultation with the Dean of Students;
7. Reviewing policies and recommendation for changes in policy for the campus community;
 8. Promoting and coordinating alcohol awareness and educational and behavioral change programs with the campus community which may include the following components:
 - a. student workshops for the general student population, residence hall staffs, representatives of Greek organizations, other student groups and organizations and faculty and staff which aim to develop new procedures for overcoming peer pressure to consume alcohol and other drugs;
 - b. workshops to increase student understanding of the short and long-term effects of alcohol and other drug abuse;
 - c. encourage students to participate in the programs and activities which take place during weeks such as Alcohol and Health Awareness Week;
 - d. special educational workshops for students and their families during each Fall semester (e.g. S.O. and Family Weekend);
9. Assist the efforts of Rensselaer Greeks and other student groups and organizations to develop and evaluate systematic and innovative party procedures and policies regarding the low-risk serving of alcohol (e.g. determining the impact of specific environmental determinants on alcohol consumption, refining existing server intervention training programs and sober driver programs).

X. RENSSELAER GOOD SAMARITAN POLICY

Student health and safety are primary concerns of the Rensselaer community. It is imperative that someone call for medical assistance when an individual appears to be a victim of and/or experiences alcohol intoxication, drug overdose, or serious injury after consuming alcohol or other drugs. In general, people may be reluctant to seek emergency or medical attention for fear of judicial consequences for themselves, the person in need of assistance, and/or the organization hosting the event where the situation occurs.

Because health emergencies related to the consumption of alcohol and other drugs are potentially life threatening, Rensselaer seeks to reduce barriers to seeking assistance. The Good Samaritan Policy is part of Rensselaer's approach to reducing harmful consequences caused by the consumption of alcohol and

other drugs. The Good Samaritan Policy is the Institute's commitment to increase the likelihood that community members will call for assistance when faced with an alcohol or drug-related emergency.

An **individual** who receives emergency assistance and/or medical treatment due to alcohol or drug consumption, and who completes an alcohol and other drugs assessment educational activities and/or treatment as assigned through the Rensselaer Health Center will not be subject to judicial action for violating Institute Alcohol & Other Drug Policy.

A **person who calls** for emergency assistance and/or medical treatment due to alcohol or drug consumption on behalf of another person will not be subject to judicial action for violating Institute Alcohol & Other Drug Policy, but may be required to attend an alcohol and other drugs education program if deemed necessary by the Rensselaer Health Center.

A **representative of an organization** hosting an event is expected to promptly call for emergency assistance and/or medical attention due to evidence of a potential health or other emergency resulting from consumption of alcohol or other drugs by a guest at the event. This act of responsibility will mitigate the judicial consequences against the organization which results from violations of the Grounds for Disciplinary Action at the time of the incident due to violation of Institute Alcohol & Other Drug Policy. However, failure to call for emergency assistance and/or medical treatment will be considered an "intolerable circumstance" affecting judicial sanctions against the organization and persons found to be knowledgeable and/or responsible for the event if violations of Grounds for Disciplinary Action have occurred.

Requirement to Obtain Medical Assistance: Rensselaer students, student organizations, and other members of the Rensselaer Community are required to summon emergency medical services (by calling 911 or Rensselaer Public Safety at (518)276-6611) to obtain assistance and evaluation for any person who is in their room or immediate presence and is, or is suspected to be, under the influence of alcohol or other prohibited substances, when that person's well-being and safety is known to be or reasonably should be known to be in jeopardy. When an individual knows or reasonably should know that another person is in jeopardy, failing to summon emergency medical services (e.g. taking the person back to his/her residence and dropping him/her off, driving the person to a hospital in a personal vehicle, asking another person to take responsibility for the intoxicated individual without seeking medical assistance for the ill person) shall be considered a violation of this policy.

XI. RENSSELAER'S ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG EDUCATION PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 requires that we distribute to all students the campus alcohol and other drug (AOD) policy, as well as the laws and health risks regarding AOD use and resources on campus and in the community. Contact the Health Education Office at 276-6287 or healthed@rpi.edu for more information.

A. Health Risks

There is no "safe" use of alcohol for students under 21. Engaging in "recreational" drug use or "social" drinking could have serious mental health, physical and/or legal consequences. Alcohol and other drugs are toxic to the body and if abused can have catastrophic consequences on one's health. Some drugs

are so toxic that even one experimental use can be fatal. Alcohol is the number one date rape drug. When it comes to drugs and alcohol, what you don't know can not only hurt you, but it can kill you.

Rensselaer believes that the better informed one is about the health risks associated with the use and abuse of alcohol and the use of drugs, the more likely you are to avoid these substances altogether or to seek help if you become the victim of a chemical dependence. Therefore, the following is a summary of the various health risks associated with alcohol abuse and the use of 12 specific types of drugs. This summary is not intended to be an exhaustive or final statement of all possible consequences to health of substance abuse, but rather is intended to increase your awareness of the grave risks involved in this kind of behavior.

Alcohol Use and Abuse – Alcohol is the most widely used and abused drug in the United States. Alcohol consumption has acute effects on the body and causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a vehicle safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse, as well as dangerous risk-taking behavior. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, lower doses of alcohol can be fatal.

Alcohol-related automobile crashes are the number one cause of death among people ages 15 through 24. Furthermore, approximately 50 percent of all youthful deaths from drowning, fires, suicide, and homicide are alcohol-related.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to physical and psychological dependence. Dependent persons who suddenly stop drinking are likely to suffer withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver. Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. In addition, research indicated that children of alcoholic parents have an increased risk of becoming alcoholics themselves.

Use of Illicit Drugs – Drugs interfere with the brain's ability to take in, store, and synthesize information. They distort perception, which can lead users to harm themselves or others. Drug use also affects sensation and impairs memory.

B. Rensselaer Resources for Help

The Rensselaer resources available to provide assistance to members of the campus community concerned about health issues related to alcohol and other drugs are as follows:

Student Health Center: 1-(518)-276-6287

The Student Health Center is open Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 pm when classes are in session and Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm during the summer. Call for an appointment.

Counseling Center: 1-(518)-276-6479

The Counseling Center, located in the Student Health Center. Is open Monday through Friday 8:30 - 5:00 when classes are in session and mornings only during the summer. They offer assistance on any issue that affects Rensselaer students.

Health Education: 1-(518)-276-6287

Contact Health Education for information about alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, safer sex, nutrition, stress, wellness or any other related topics. Located in the Student Health Center along with the campus' Wellness Resource Library.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 1-(518)-276-6287

AA meetings are held on campus every Monday night. There are also many off-campus meetings available. Call Health Education for details.

C. Community Resources for Help

The following off-campus community resources are also available:

Hudson-Mohawk Recovery Center: 1-(518)-272-3918

HMRC is a comprehensive outpatient alcoholism evaluation and treatment center located at 16 First Street in downtown Troy. They are open Monday through Thursday 8:30am - 9:00pm and Fridays 8:30am - 5:00pm.

Capital EAP – 1-(518)-462-6531

Capital EAP is the Employee Assistance Program for use by faculty and staff and their families.

D. National Hotlines

National resources that provide assistance to individuals concerned about matters related to the use of alcohol and other drugs include, but aren't limited to the following:

NCA INFORMATION LINE: 1-800-NCA-CALL

The National Council on Alcoholism (NCA) provides referral services to families and individuals seeking help with an alcohol or other drug problem.

PRIDE DRUG INFORMATION HOTLINE: 1-800-241-9746

The Parent's Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) refers concerned parents to parent groups in their state or local area, provides telephone consultations and referral to emergency health centers, and maintains a series of drug information tapes that callers can listen to at no charge after 5:30p.m.

NIDA HOTLINE: 1-800-622-HELP

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) provides a confidential information and referral line that directs callers to cocaine abuse treatment centers in the local community. Free materials on drug use are also distributed upon request.

For more information please call the Health Education Office at 1-(518)-276-6287 or healthed@rpi.edu.