

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Author(s): Pres. Barrett

Sponsor(s): Chair Bryan, Chair Aguilar, Sen. Harricharran, Sen. Terrier, Sen. Seernani, Sen. Marin, Sen. Syed, Sen. Akil

Committee: Administration and Finance

Draft: Final

The Modern Drug and Alcohol Policy Act

Whereas, Harris County has decriminalized Marijuana¹;

Whereas, the University of Houston's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy currently states, under section 3 "Health Risks"², in the subsection for cannabis: "Overdose [from cannabis] may result in fatigue, paranoia, and possible psychosis."³;

Whereas, "There is no record in the extensive medical literature describing a proven, documented cannabis-induced fatality."²;

Whereas, "A smoker [of Marijuana/cannabis] would theoretically have to consume nearly 1,500 pounds of marijuana within about fifteen minutes to induce a lethal response."²;

Whereas, a DEA drug fact sheet states "No death from overdose of marijuana has been reported."³;

Whereas, Cannabis is nearly impossible to overdose on, and is only possible under theoretical constructs;

Whereas, the University of Houston's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Policy currently states, under section 4 "Penalties for Violation of the Policy"³: "Any student admitting to or proven to have violated the University of Houston's Student Code of Conduct regarding the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs... will be subject to disciplinary action (up to and including expulsion), [and] may be referred for prosecution[.]"³;

Whereas, the University of Houston arrested seventy-five students for drug violations in 2016⁴;

Whereas, the University of Houston arrested nine students for liquor law violations in 2016⁴;

Whereas, the University of Houston delivered referrals to forty-six students in 2016⁴;

Whereas, the University of Houston delivered referrals to fifty-seven students in 2016⁴;

Whereas, expulsion is punishment enough for a student using drugs or alcohol on campus;

Whereas, the University of Houston needs to modernize its Drug and Alcohol policy to promote a safe and constructive environment within the realm of drugs and alcohol.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

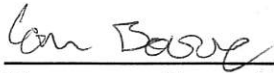
That “Overdose may result in fatigue, paranoia, and possible psychosis” be struck from the University of Houston official policy on drug and alcohol prevention in the Cannabis subsection of section three;

Be it further enacted, that the University of Houston cease any/all referrals to prosecution for possession of illegal drug and/or alcohol on school grounds;

Be it further enacted, that the newly amended Section four of the University of Houston Drug and Alcohol Prevention Policy to read:

“The University policy prohibiting the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and/or alcohol on the campus and at University-sponsored events held off campus protects and supports the employees and students of the University of Houston. Any employee admitting to or convicted of the unlawful possession or use of illicit drugs and alcohol on the campus or at university sponsored events held off campus, will be subject to disciplinary action (up to and including termination) and may be required to satisfactorily participate in a drug and alcohol assistance or rehabilitation program, as agreed upon between the employee and the Department of Human Resources. Any employee admitting to or convicted of the unlawful distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on the campus or at university sponsored events held off campus, will be subject to disciplinary action (up to and including termination), may be referred for prosecution, and may be required to satisfactorily participate in a drug and alcohol assistance or rehabilitation program, as agreed upon between the employee and the Department of Human Resources. Further information concerning employee penalties is available from the Department of Human Resources, employees can contact the HR Employee Service Center at 713-743-3988. Any student

admitting to or proven to have violated the University of Houston's Student Code of Conduct regarding the unlawful possession or use of illicit drugs and alcohol on campus or at university sponsored events (see Student Disciplinary Policies and Procedures Section) will be subject to disciplinary action (up to and including expulsion) and may be requested to satisfactorily participate in a drug and alcohol assistance or rehabilitation program. Any student admitting to or proven to have violated the University of Houston's Student Code of Conduct regarding the unlawful distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on the campus or at university sponsored events held off campus, will be subject to disciplinary action (up to and including expulsion), may be referred for prosecution, and may be required to satisfactorily participate in a drug and alcohol assistance or rehabilitation program, as agreed upon between the employee and the Department of Human Resources. Further information concerning student penalties is available from the Dean of Students Office at 713-743-5470. While this policy covers drug and alcohol policy at the University of Houston, please be aware that there are penalties under Texas and federal law. For more information on the range of penalties, refer to the Dean of Students website at <http://www.uh.edu/dos/pdf/DrugPenalties2008.pdf>²



Cameron Barrett

Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 6/6/18

APPROVED



Andrew Trinh

Speaker of Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 6/6/18

¹<https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/New-policy-to-decriminalize-marijuana-in-Harris-10935947.php>

²<http://www.ccguides.org/young88.php>

³https://www.dea.gov/druginfo/drug_data_sheets/Marijuana.pdf

⁴http://www.uh.edu/police/2017_UH_ASR.pdf

http://www.oregon.gov/pharmacy/imports/marijuana/staffreview/reschedulingcannabis-notes_3-10.pdf