TO: The University Senate  
FROM: Proposed to the University Senate Student Affairs Committee  
SUBJECT: Medical Amnesty or PurdueCares  
DISPOSITION: University Senate for Action  
REFERENCES: Proposed changes to the Part 5, Section 5, Part E, Use of Alcoholic Beverages of the University Regulations

Rationale: Annual statistics from The National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) reveal that nearly 1900 college and university students die from alcohol-related injuries. Over a half million students are injured while under the influence of alcohol while nearly 700,000 students are assaulted by another student who has been drinking. The Medical Amnesty or PurdueCares policy is proposed for endorsement by the Faculty Senate in relation to these data. Its purpose is to influence students to assist or be assisted by their peers in a health or life-threatening circumstance. The policy will amend Section 5-E of Purdue University Regulations. Furthermore, if formally approved, the policy will be part of The AlcoholEdu program conducted annually at the new student orientation each summer.

Proposed Purdue University Regulations, Section 5, Part E, Subsection 4 (addition to Part E)

4. The primary concern of Purdue University in all cases, including those cases of intoxication and/or alcohol poisoning, is the health and safety of the individuals involved. Recognizing that the potential application of University disciplinary sanctions could be a factor that deters students from making the responsible decision to seek medical attention for themselves or others in cases of student intoxication and/or alcohol poisoning, the University has instituted the Purdue Community Alcohol-Related Emergency Situation (PurdueCARES) Regulations:

a. In cases of student intoxication and/or alcohol poisoning, the intoxicated student, as well as the student(s) seeking medical attention on the intoxicated student’s behalf, will be exempt from University disciplinary sanctions related to alcohol consumption.

b. In circumstances involving a Recognized Student Organization (RSO), the willingness of the members involved in seeking medical assistance for a member or guest will be viewed as a mitigating factor in the review process for the RSO for any possible violations of University Regulations related to alcohol consumption.

[1] Disciplinary sanctions are defined in Part 5, Section III of the University Regulations as “expulsion, suspension, probated suspension, disciplinary probation…”

(Accepted unanimously by SAC (Atkinson, Baha, Hastings, Konieczny, Krites, Malavenda, Ogg, Rossie, Rust, Templin, Thoman, April 18, 2011)