



## SGA reviews alcohol surveys and recommends no immediate changes

### SGA to present recommendation to the Board of Trustees next week.

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Meredith's Student Government Association (SGA) has been very busy this year dealing with controversial issues that directly affect the Meredith community.

Last summer, the Board of Trustees made three changes to the existing alcohol policy. First, the President's home is to be considered "off campus." Second, faculty, staff and alumnae will be permitted to have alcohol at off-campus, college-sponsored events. Finally, study abroad students will follow the laws of the country in which they are studying.

In response to these changes, the Board of Trustees requested that SGA examine how students feel about the current policy. After researching other schools' policies and analyzing our current policy

during the fall semester SGA compiled an alcohol survey. Surveys were distributed to all Meredith students on Jan. 23, and the deadline for completion was Jan. 28. Since then, SGA has been busy tabulating the results so it can present them to the Meredith community and the Board of Trustees. Beth Brown, Student Life Chair, stated, "Compiling the results was tedious work; however, the results were very surprising."

Out of the surveys distributed 276 were returned. The results are as follows:

1. Should Meredith Remain Dry?

Agree Strongly 40%  
Agree Somewhat 15%  
Disagree Somewhat 12%  
Disagree Strongly 32%  
Not Sure 1%

2. Should Meredith students have memento bottles?

Agree Strongly 58%  
Agree Somewhat 21%  
Disagree Somewhat 5%  
Disagree Strongly 13%  
Not Sure 3%

3. Should students over 21 be able to drink on campus?

Agree Strongly 39%  
Agree Somewhat 12%  
Disagree Somewhat 8%  
Disagree Strongly 37%  
Not Sure 4%

4. Should students over 21 be able to drink at college functions?

Agree Strongly...33%  
Agree Somewhat...18%  
Disagree Somewhat...14%  
Disagree Strongly...33%  
Not Sure...2%

5. Should the alcohol policy as stated remain the same?

Agree Strongly...22%  
Agree Somewhat...12%  
Disagree Somewhat...18%  
Disagree Strongly...43%  
Not Sure...5%

The SGA Executive Committee closely examined these results and came to the conclusion that since the results of the survey were not conclusive one way or the other, it is in the college's best interest that the policy remains as stated. These results and the SGA recommendation will be presented to the Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 28.

Due to some of the written responses on the surveys, the SGA Executive

Committee feels that there are certain aspects of the policy that are not clear. On the survey, students had the misconception that shot glasses and other drink related glassware are not allowed in the dorms. After consulting with Residence Director Heidi LeCount, SGA determined that these items are not prohibited by the current policy and therefore are permissible in the dorms.

The other misconception revealed by the surveys was the belief that it is an honor code violation to return to campus having consumed alcohol despite a student's age. According to SGA, this is certainly not the case, and any student who has consumed alcohol is highly encouraged to return to campus rather than spend the night off campus regardless of her age. However, it does become an Honor Code violation if the student is driving while under the influence or acting in a disruptive manner on campus or outside of Meredith.

A more detailed explanation of the survey results, the SGA recommendation

and these misconceptions will be given at the Free Your Mind Forum in Belk Dining Hall on Feb. 25 at 6 p.m.

Another issue tackled by SGA this year has been the student non-discrimination policy. Early last semester faculty proposed to change their policy to include the phrase "sexual orientation." Senior Management asked SGA to examine the student policy to see if such a change was in order. The Student Life Committee researched the policies at other colleges and universities and recommended that the SGA Executive Committee pursue this change in Meredith's current student policy.

This week, the Elections Board held a referendum during campus-wide elections to obtain student opinion on this possible change.

The SGA Executive Committee will take these results into consideration as it formulates its recommendation on this issue to the Board of Trustees.

**See Alcohol  
Page 2**

## On the inside:

**Did you miss the Founders' Day convocation? Find out about it on  
Page 2**

**Learn about the Career Center's Mock Interview Week.  
Page 3**

**The tennis team gets ready for their spring season.  
Page 5**