

WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

Lexington, Virginia 24450-0303

Office of the President
(540) 458-8700

January 14, 2004

Mr. Jeffrey Levy
President
Virginia College Parents
4212 Pickering Place
Alexandria, Virginia 22309

Dear Mr. Levy:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of December 7 regarding alcohol on college and university campuses in Virginia. Like you, I take this issue very seriously and I applaud your efforts to organize parents in Virginia. I have outlined for you below a number of ways we work on this campus to address high risk behaviors associated with alcohol and other drug use.

I am enclosing with this letter a copy of our University Initiatives on Substance Abuse which outlines the University's policies related to substance use and abuse. These policies can also be found on our University web site. The University Initiatives on Substance Abuse, which went into effect just over two years ago, are strictly enforced by our Student Affairs Office. Our Dean of Students, Dr. Dawn Watkins, welcomes any questions you may have about these policies. As is stated on page nine of the University Initiatives on Substance Abuse, our Board of Trustees adopted a resolution which reads:

“Alcohol abuse and illegal drug use adversely affect the learning environment at Washington and Lee University. They compromise our students' health, personal well-being and academic performance and promote behavior that is inconsistent with time-honored traditions of civility and respect for the law. While the University strongly supports student governance, there are certain legal parameters within which young men and women must function in order to maintain a civilized and safe community and to create a positive learning environment.”

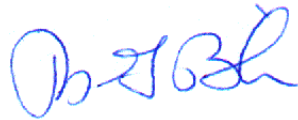
As is also outlined in the *University Initiatives on Substance Abuse*, Washington and Lee University offers a full range of educational programs and activities that discourage high-risk behaviors associated with substance abuse. Such programs include, but are not limited to: extensive training of residential life staff and fraternity and sorority members regarding substance use, abuse and prevention; regular speakers and facilitated discussions on similar topics; and, group and individual counseling for students who may be struggling with issues related to alcohol or other drugs. We are pleased to have a full-

time Director of Health Promotion who works extensively in this area as well as strong Student Health and Counseling staff members.

While we do not release our CORE data as public information, we do encourage Virginia College Parents and any and all interested parties to review the information available on the Washington and Lee University web site and to call the Dean of Students Office with any additional questions.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I hope this overview has been helpful and that you will not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. G. Burish', is written in a cursive style.

Thomas G. Burish

Enclosure