

# FERRUM COLLEGE

Office of the President

February 10, 2004

Mr. Jim Robinson  
Virginia College Parents  
4212 Pickering Place  
Alexandria, VA 22309

Dear Mr. Robinson,

We are in receipt of information related to your organization, the Virginia College Parents, Inc., and are pleased to provide you with information in an effort to support your mission. We, like all college communities, are concerned about the use and abuse of alcohol on U.S. campuses and attempt to educate our students about this problem.

Following is the Ferrum College alcohol philosophy, as stated in the 2003-2004 Student Handbook:

“Ferrum College is an educational institution which is related to the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. The College supports the position of the church that the choice to abstain from the use of alcohol is a wise one. Therefore, the College supports, encourages, and respects the decision of individuals who choose not to consume alcohol.

“Ferrum College also recognizes that the misuse and abuse of alcohol is a persistent social and health problem of major proportion in our society. The primary goal of Ferrum College is to provide an atmosphere where students can achieve academic excellence. Illegal use or misuse of alcohol does not foster academic excellence and, therefore, is not condoned or permitted. The College takes the strongest possible stance against such abuse.

“Consequently, the College expects all members of the community to be aware of the potential for abuse and to approach the consumption of alcohol in a responsible manner. Students must adhere to community standards and local, state, and federal laws regarding the use of alcohol.”

Our Office of Judicial Education mission reads as follows:

“The Ferrum College Community Code is an educational endeavor. We strive to impart intellectual and social learning and development through the Judicial System for all members of the College Community.

“Students must share a significant role in the development and enforcement of the code of conduct to ensure that they become active learners and participants in the process. The rights, safety, and well being of all members of the community should be protected by these standards of conduct.

“The administration of judicial matters will be carried out with wisdom, empathy, and integrity. Students, faculty, and staff charged with handling student conduct must do so fairly and impartially.” (Ferrum College Student Handbook, 2003-2004.)

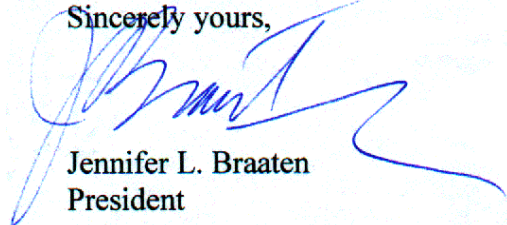
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Sanctions incurred when a student violates the alcohol laws and policies are educational in nature. Those commonly used after an alcohol violation may include, but are not limited to, a visit to our Health Educator, educational hours to be served with staff on campus, a period of probation, and parental notification. Repeated offenses result in additional sanctions and may result in suspension from Ferrum College.

There is a standing committee on our campus called Ferrum United to Prevent the Use and Abuse of Alcohol. The purpose of this committee is to examine student use of alcohol through biennial assessment. The instrument we use, the Campus Climate Survey, was constructed here on our campus. Information gathered through the Campus Climate Survey is then evaluated and shared with the appropriate campus constituents in order to apply the information to as many campus-wide programs as possible. The most highly visible way this information is used is through our Social Norms Marketing campaign in which we have created posters and flyers with our statistics and photos of our students and distributed them throughout the campus.

If you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Jennifer L. Braaten  
President

JLB/tmp

cc: Dr. Daniel Miller, Vice President for Student Services and Planning