

**Annual Report to Senate on Orientation 2010**  
**Senate Orientation Activities Review Board (SOARB)**  
**November 2010 – Deferred to January 20, 2011**

Board Members:

H. Boyd, Business B.Com.'11

M. Caldwell, Political Studies B.A.(Hons.)

C. Coupland, Staff

R. Denniston-Stewart, Office of the AVP/Dean Student Affairs

- **SOARB requests that Residence Life be provided with clarification**

Faculties should use walking tours of the city to introduce new students to the various amenities within walking distance of campus. Residences should be responsible for ensuring that students understand how and when to use blue lights and other safety systems.

- **SOARB encourages all Faculty Orientation Committees to develop more structured relationships with their respective Faculty Offices to better serve the academic requirements of the first year students as they transition to a new academic environment.**

Faculty Offices are championing the implementation of this recommendation. SOARB recognizes that, because of the yearly turnover of student planners, it often

Queen's Environmental Health and Safety provided risk management training to student event planners and Faculty representatives who approve Orientation programmes.

ORT worked with the professional staff at Health Counseling and Disability Services to design and deliver more interactive alcohol awareness training to Orientation executives and leaders.

Post-Orientation gatherings were discussed at ORT meetings. These discussions generated greater recognition of how the practices associated with these gatherings cast a negative light on the University generally and Orientation specifically. The deeper level of understanding of planners and organizers was passed to the front line leaders.

The section of the leader contract stating "I will not promote the consumption of any substance of abuse among first year students by either pressuring them to

SOARB is aware that the dangerous over consumption of alcohol is not unique to events affiliated with Orientation. First year students, most of them underage, can get access to alcohol and some engage in harmful drinking practices. SOARB is also aware that many of our students come to Queen's with a well established history of alcohol use.

**SOARB is unable to identify an enforceable sanction, specific to Orientation, to address the dangerous over consumption of alcohol. Rather SOARB**

In order to ensure appropriate notice and direction, a policy on accommodation of faith dates should be developed and approved no later than April 2012.

In formulating this policy, SOARB will first seek input from the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures (SCAP). It is the consensus of the Board that any policy for Orientation be consistent with other Senate policies.

**SOARB will consult with SCAP and other campus stakeholders before recommending a policy to Senate.**

The interfaculty day, which came about as a result of the modified Orientation schedule, was viewed by SOARB as an opportunity to introduce some new elements to Orientation Week that might address issues, such as negative interfaculty rivalry, which has plagued past Orientation Weeks, and Diversity and Inclusion which are identified priorities for the University. The creativity and commitment of a great number of students and campus partners provided opportunities for both competitive and cooperative activities based on the themes of Intercultural Competency, Recreation and Leisure and Inter-Faculty Relations. Campus partners such as Athletics and Recreation, Queen's University International Centre, Hospitality Services, Diversity and Community Development and Residence Life worked with ORT to develop the best possible programme given the short lead time. Many aspects of the day have positive potential and deserve to be explored further.

ORT is also undertaking initiatives to promote positive and increased inter-faculty relationships; these initiatives will take place during Orientation Committee and Leader trainings. One initiative will create opportunities for committees to share specifics about their organizational structure and programme with other committees and a second will see a modification of the Fall training day to create more opportunities for interfaculty interaction and collaboration.

**SOARB makes no formal recommendation at this time however, SOARB supports initiatives that will meet the educational needs and interests of an increasingly diverse student body. Based on the results of the ORT initiatives, the recently undertaken Orientation survey and focus groups, and a follow-up survey to be administered in January 2011, SOARB may choose to make a recommendation for Orientations 2012 and beyond.**

