

## Suggestions for Arranging a Meeting on Campus Gambling Policies

Every campus has extensive experience with organizing committees and task forces. We encourage schools to draw on this experience, especially any with initiatives on alcohol and drugs, when planning a meeting about campus gambling policies.

One important step before planning begins is to determine the desired outcomes for the meeting. Whether your goal is simply to ensure campus stakeholders are better informed about the importance of science-based policies and programs addressing gambling, to kick-off a significant and sustained effort to address gambling on campus, or something in between, having a clear picture of your desired outcomes is critical to the meeting's success.

### Prior to the Meeting – Questions for Consideration

- Which departments, campus groups and organizations should be invited to send a representative to the meeting?
  - The “Potential Participants for On-Campus Meeting” document included in this toolkit offers some guidance on what campus departments and student groups should be considered for inclusion in the meeting. As every campus is unique, there may be additional departments or organizations you will want to invite.
- How formal will the meeting be?
  - This toolkit includes a PowerPoint presentation on the task force’s “Call to Action” report, which can either be projected onto a screen/through a television or simply handed out. The format you choose will affect your need for audio-visual equipment.
- Who will be the speakers at the meeting?
  - Depending on the gambling-related initiatives already in place on your campus, it may be prudent to ask members of different campus departments to be part of an expert panel at the meeting. This panel can help present the information about the task force’s policies as well as the initiatives already underway on campus and in their various departments or organizations
- How long will the meeting last?
  - Depending on how ambitious your agenda is, the meeting length will vary. Ensure there is time to cover the task force’s recommendations and any other information needed to achieve your desired meeting outcomes.
- Will representatives from other campuses in the geographic area be invited?
  - Involving other schools in the community can be an important way to raise awareness of the need for gambling policies, and it can help facilitate the collaborations between campuses and communities that were recommended in the task force’s report. If representatives from other schools will be invited, allow more time for identifying the appropriate invitees before sending out invitations.

## Meeting Guide

This meeting guide offers a suggested structure for a campus meeting about gambling policies.

- 1) Review College Gaming Research and Recommendations of the Task Force** – the PowerPoint presentation provided in the toolkit includes a summary of research on college gambling and outlines the recommendations of the Task Force on College Gambling Policies.
- 2) Review Current Policies** – the PowerPoint presentation also includes a place to report on the current state of policies and programs designed to reduce gambling and gambling-related harms on your campus. Reviewing these policies helps ensure your meeting’s diverse participant group is on the same page about all of the efforts currently underway on your campus.
- 3) Potential Discussion Questions** – the questions below are intended to help spark dialogue at the meeting and engage the variety of stakeholder groups in attendance. Depending on your meeting goals and who is participating, there may be questions below that are not necessary to include.
  - How many of you were aware of the initiatives already underway on this issue? What aspects of these initiatives were you aware of?
  - Are there other initiatives your departments, organizations or groups are already implementing with regard to gambling that weren’t discussed in the presentation? If so, what are they?
  - How many of you know students or other members of the campus community who gamble? What are they gambling on (e.g., card games, sports, etc.)?
  - Do our student health surveys reveal the gambling patterns of students? If this subject is not addressed in existing health surveys, should gambling questions be added?
  - Does our student health system keep track of students who seek help for gambling? If not, how many of you know students or other members of the campus community who have sought help for a gambling problem? How about those who haven’t sought help but who do not seem able to control their gambling?
  - What education and prevention efforts are we already implementing with regards to alcohol and drugs? Could these efforts be expanded or adapted to include information about gambling?
  - What conflicts of interest do you foresee if efforts are made to reduce gambling activities (such as cancelling special events like casino nights)?
  - Who are the local gambling operators (lottery, casino, etc.)? Are there problems with advertising targeted at students?
  - What other resources do we already have on campus that could be used to help educate the campus community about gambling disorders (e.g., school paper, list serves, health center pamphlets, student orientation materials, etc.)?



- What are the primary venues or opportunities for educating students on campus about gambling and gambling disorders?
- How can we prioritize the recommendations of the Task Force on College Gambling Policies for our campus? Which recommendations can we implement the most effectively in the least amount of time? Which ones will require more planning? Are there some that simply are not practical for our campus?
- [IF OTHER SCHOOLS ARE INCLUDED IN MEETING] How can we work together across institutions and with the community to help raise awareness about these issues?

**4) Discussion of Next Steps and Wrap-Up** – taking into consideration the goals for the meeting and the results of the discussion, identify a short list of concrete next steps. Actual next steps will be different for each school, but the list below offers some ideas about the potential next steps your school can take to move toward the implementation of science-based policies and programs addressing gambling and gambling disorders.

- Establish a campus-wide committee to develop and monitor a comprehensive policy on gambling.
  - NOTE: This committee likely will include key participants from this initial meeting.
- Have meeting participants write letters to the chancellor and their department heads, deans or administrators about the importance of instituting science-based initiatives on gambling.
- Research existing education and prevention initiatives for alcohol and drug abuse and pursue opportunities to integrate gambling into these efforts.
- Ask relevant professionals (student life, student affairs, campus marketing, student orientation, etc.) to create a plan to educate students about this subject. This plan could include providing information through:
  - Student orientation
  - Dorm meetings
  - Events in the student union
  - Events held in conjunction with fraternities, sororities, cultural organizations and other student groups
  - Advertising on campus television and radio stations, billboards and websites
- Investigate opportunities to strengthen the capacity of student counseling services to identify and treat gambling disorders.
  - Contact state and local government representatives to see if the government offers counselor training, or if they can recommend certified trainers.
- Pursue the measurement of student attitudes, behaviors and problems with gambling through campus surveys or by incorporating such measures into existing campus health-related surveys.