To date, the five Coalition task forces have accomplished the following.

**Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force**

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Task Force has had much needed, engaging conversations related to the group’s charge and has done a great deal of information gathering related to culture, policy, and the Community Standards Process. Now that important dialogue has occurred, the chairs are going to be directing the group to develop more concrete action plans based on the group’s charge.

The task force has selected the issues they want to give highest priority and most immediate attention. Those items are: defining the terms “high-risk drinking” and “pre-gaming,” clearly conveying to the larger university community the work of the task force, assessing drug use on campus, reviewing policy and judicial sanctions for drug and alcohol violations, and reviewing current education efforts regarding alcohol and sexual assault.

The group has tentatively defined high-risk drinking as “drinking that produces behaviors outside of normal responses when sober or leads to decisions one would not ordinarily make” (e.g., vomiting, blacking out, property damage, aggression, sexual assault). For most people, consuming 4-5 drinks for women and 5-6 drinks for men is when “bad things” start to happen that lead to poor decision making and negative consequences. The task force feels it might be helpful to present this as a “continuum of risk” and indicate that the risk for poor decision making and negative consequences increases the more alcohol one consumes.

The group has also had extensive conversation on pre-gaming and is in agreement that students intentionally pre-game with the purpose of getting intoxicated prior to “going out.” The group discussed how pre-gaming is more of an issue for women because fraternities, where most of the parties occur, can be socially intimidating and women use alcohol to ease anxiety and help them relax. “Going out” is different for men since most men live at fraternity houses. Pre-gaming is also dangerous because a great deal of alcohol is consumed in a short period of time, and many students do not realize how they are impacted until it “hits” them at a later point in the evening.

**Community Relations Task Force**

On Wednesday, November 15, the Community Relations Task Force hosted three focus groups with members of the Greencastle Community and the DePauw Community that aimed to identify issues and sources of tension between the two groups and look ahead toward potential collaborative efforts to create a desired relationship. One focus group examined DePauw as an institution as it affects the Greencastle Community. The second focus group examined DePauw’s general student body as it affects the Greencastle Community. The third focus group examined DePauw’s Greek system as it affects the Greencastle Community.

Following are some highlights from the focus groups.
Greek students agree that they automatically defer to their philanthropies as their main point of involvement in the community, yet it doesn't actually involve members of the community.

Students only interact with community members when they visit local businesses.

Most interactions students have with community members are positive except for one student who had a negative racial incident.

Students perceive that Greencastle community members view DePauw students as “wealthy and stuck up,” and lacking regard for their surroundings.

Students feel that there is a lack of knowledge about Greencastle, its history, and the different types of community groups. It was also mentioned that only a few students know who the mayor is (pointing out the lack of interest).

One idea was to get Greek Chapters to encourage members to join community organizations or have an officer that does it or provides the information.

It was also noted that because of the constant turn over of student population with graduation and off campus study it becomes a challenge to maintain relationships and interactions.

There is a great deal of miscommunication between members of the DePauw and Greencastle communities. This miscommunication is caused and fueled by a sense of entitlement that Greencastle residents perceive DePauw students, faculty, and staff to convey.

Students are a transitory component of DePauw. While they only spend four years in Greencastle, Greencastle residents spend their entire lifetimes in this town. Students, must be better educated about the community and have consideration.

Community relations between students and Greencastle residents will not be improved unless DePauw as an institution makes a concerted effort to develop Greencastle holistically -- not just by putting money into the community but by engaging and interacting with Greencastle residents. Suggestions: i) Develop a Community Relations administrative position (VP, etc.). While we have the Hartman House and other community outreach initiatives, they do not suffice for the great deficiency in interaction between the DePauw administration and Greencastle community. ii) Encourage faculty members to serve on committees and boards of Greencastle community and social organizations. This is in the spirit of DePauw's requirement of faculty to dedicate one-third of their time to service. iii) Encourage faculty members to live in Greencastle. An example was cited of a DePauw HR officer telling a new faculty member to live in Plainfield/Avon instead of Greencastle because there is more to do in Plainfield. This kind of "advice" is counterproductive and does not contribute to healthy community relations.

Members of the Greencastle community do not feel there is as much tension between DePauw and Greencastle as we perceive there to be.
Community members feel DePauw does a poor job promoting what DePauw is doing, whether that be an event on campus or a building project, etc. They feel public relations efforts needs to improve.

Community members appreciate DePauw events that involve them, such as Relay for Life. However, they wish we would pick events that would actually benefit Greencastle, like doing an event for the United Way campaign.

Community members wish staff and faculty lived in Greencastle. There is the perception that when IBM closed and Greencastle went from more of a white collar to blue collar community, fewer faculty members began living in Greencastle.

Hazing Task Force
The Hazing Task Force has spent a great deal of time discussing hazing policy, recent policy changes, and instances of hazing on campus. They have given extensive thought as to how they are going to investigate the climate with regard to hazing and hope to measure first-year students’ expectations with regard to hazing and upperclass students’ awareness and approval of hazing. They are considering a survey and focus groups as means to collect this data. The task force has also asked Mr. Norval Stephens to contact the Genesis Group to find out what hazing programs are in place and what sanctions have had an impact with organizations on other campuses.

While details are not finalized, the Hazing Task Force is preparing to make recommendations to the Coalition Steering Group during the November 28 meeting that the following policies be instituted this year prior to rush.

1. They would like to establish a phone hotline where students can anonymously report hazing to a voice recorder, which would be followed up by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

2. They would like to expand and promote Public Safety’s “silent witness program” as another means of anonymously reporting hazing incidents. (On the Public Safety webpage, students can currently report campus crimes anonymously). This would include the addition of a submission form on the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life’s webpage.

3. They would like to institute a “Sunshine Policy,” similar to what Cornell does, that would publicly disclose details of hazing that take place within chapters or athletic organizations. Last year, the University began to disclose basic information about hazing that was very general in nature. This policy would take the disclosure a step further and share specific details about the incident, other than names. While task force members support the concept of a sunshine policy, they are still working out the details of this recommendation.

4. Currently under review are two additional proposals still in the preliminary stages. These are adding a requirement that every member of an organization sign a statement acknowledging their understanding of the DePauw hazing policy, the consequences of violating that policy, and a pledge to abstain from hazing. The leadership of an organization would also be required to
complete and return a questionnaire regarding the nature of their new member education program to identify red flags which might indicate hazing.

**Social Programming Task Force**
The Social Programming Task Force administered a survey to a random sample of 1,000 students a couple of weeks ago and will begin analyzing the data from this survey at the end of the week (see attached). This survey will show us student satisfaction with social options on campus, what social events students attend both on and off campus, and define popular campus “hang out” spaces as well as what students would want from an ideal campus “hang out” space.

The task force also sent out a brief survey to nearly 40 benchmarking schools that ask institutions to share with us the kinds of social options they create for their students, how they allocate funds toward these programs, and descriptions of popular social venues on their campuses.

**Winter Term Task Force**
The group began their process by identifying concerns they have with on campus Winter Term. This list of nearly forty concerns included social climate issues related to high-risk alcohol consumption, academic credibility of the on campus Winter Term courses, the duration of Winter Term, the co-curricular program, the way we award academic credit for Winter Term, and concerns related to Winter Term policies and procedures.

The group then came to consensus on what the purpose of Winter Term should be. It should be noted that even though students consistently say that the on campus Winter Term experience is about “bonding,” this group determined that bonding should not be a purpose for Winter Term. The group established the following as tenets of the Winter Term program.

- Studying something one normally would not have the opportunity to study during the academic year
- Vocational and career exploration
- Out of class involvement
- Reflection
- Experiential education
- Meaningful, engaging programming

The Winter Term Task Force decided that for the time being, they would set aside the social concerns related to on campus Winter Term and first address academic concerns. The group has determined courses should continue as part of this experience but that we must find ways to strengthen the courses. Suggestions for how to do this are including course evaluations in faculty members’ files and the Winter Term Office holding faculty accountable to course proposal guidelines.

The group has also recommended that the on campus Winter Term should truly embody the spirit of Winter Term of being engaging and experiential and offer more options for the on campus Winter Term experience. One option the task force is currently discussing is Campus Community Engagement Projects. These projects would be proposed by faculty or staff and
students would have to apply to work on a project that was designed to make an impact on a campus issue (such as issues related to gender, alcohol, hazing, academic integrity, etc.).

The Winter Term Task Force will administer two surveys about Winter Term in February 2007. The first survey will go to first-year students who have completed an on campus Winter Term course and the second survey will go to upperclass students who have completed an on campus Winter Term course in the past (to measure immediate value/satisfaction from the view point of first-year students as well as to measure variables from the view point of upperclass students who have experienced more at DePauw and may have broader perspective). The survey will be broad and will not only focus on the Winter Term courses but the value of the overall experience, the social climate, and out of class experiences.