UO Good Samaritan Policy

Rationale: Recognizing that the threat of punitive policies can cause hesitation during stressful and confused situations, universities and communities around the country have adopted Good Samaritan policies that protect from liability those who seek medical attention as a result of illegal actions (the Oregon State Legislature signed a Good Samaritan law into effect in February 2014). Since the threat of punitive policies can often cause hesitation during confusing and stressful situations, including those involving sexual misconduct, the existence of a Good Samaritan Policy is essential to ensuring that college students in particular are able to stay alive and receive help when they are in trouble. While it is the practice at UO not to charge students with conduct violations in instances of sexual assault or medical emergency, there is currently no formal Good Samaritan Policy.

Policy: While the University does not condone underage drinking or violation of other University policies, it considers both the safety of our students and an environment that is conducive to the reporting of sexual misconduct to be of paramount importance.

When incidents involve sexual misconduct, it is in the best interests of the UO community that as many victims as possible choose to report to University officials. To encourage reporting incidents of sexual misconduct, UO pursues a procedure of offering victims of sexual misconduct – as well as bystanders -- immunity from being charged for policy violations that may have arisen in relation to a sexual misconduct incident.

In cases of a medical emergency involving drugs or alcohol, the primary concern is the health and safety of the individual(s) involved. Students are strongly encouraged to call for medical assistance (911) for themselves or for another student who they observe to be or feel is dangerously intoxicated/under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If a student calls on behalf of another student, that student is required to remain with the student experiencing the emergency until medical assistance arrives.

Students may be hesitant to seek help in cases involving sexual misconduct or medical emergencies because of fear of potential conduct and disciplinary consequences for themselves, the person who has been the victim of sexual misconduct, and/or the person requiring medical attention. No student experiencing or reporting sexual misconduct or seeking medical assistance for an alcohol or other drug-related emergency will be subject to University disciplinary action for the violation of possession or consumption of alcohol or drugs. This policy extends to the students who experience or report sexual misconduct, or who call for medical assistance.
In order to receive amnesty, students must use the policy proactively. This means that a student must take the initiative to get assistance from an RA, a UOPD officer, or 911 at the time of the incident. There is no limit to the number of referrals a student may give or receive. However, in consistently putting the student’s health and safety first, UO will approach serious or repeated incidents with a higher degree of concern and a higher level of intervention. These amnesty policies should not be abused. This policy does not protect students who are found to be in violation of other University policies from disciplinary action. Likewise, this policy does not prevent action by police or other law enforcement personnel. The Amnesty Policy does not grant amnesty to possession with intent to distribute drugs.