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OF UBC VANCOUVER

# REPORT TO GSS COUNCIL

by

ARVIND SARASWAT

PRESIDENT

GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETY OF UBC VANCOUVER

DATE: April 14, 2010

SUBJECT: Suspension of Liquor License on March 26, 2010



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## **Suspension of Liquor License of Koerner's Pub**

UBC suspended the liquor license of Koerner's Pub on March 26, 2010. The reasons for suspension are explained in letter dated March 24, 2010 from the Office of University Counsel. Underage drinking incident on March 6, 2010, over-serving incident on March 12, 2010, underage drinking incidents that occurred in April 2008 and September 2009 have led to the current suspension of the liquor license. After the September 2009 incident the Food and Beverage Manager had proposed and implemented a number of measures, including staff training, to eliminate the occurrence of such incidents. The incidents in March 2010 have raised questions about the effectiveness, or lack of the same, of the past measures.

The incidents have been taken very seriously by the Executive. Such incidents tarnish our image, invite severe penalties and disrupt the business operations of the GSS. It is important to note that UBC is the owner of the liquor license and we are part of the UBC license. A single license covers Koerner's Pub, Thea's Lounge and Ballroom, therefore suspension of the liquor license also adversely affects the bookings of Thea's Lounge and Ballroom. The current situation has been deliberated at length by the Executive Committee and has also been discussed by the House Finance and External Review Committees. The Food and Beverage Manager was directed by the Executive Committee on March 31, 2010 to develop a plan that will prevent the occurrence of such incidents. After several rounds of discussions with Executive the following measures have been recommended by the Food and Beverage Manager, these measures have also been discussed with UBC Officials:

- a. **Staff Training:** To tackle the problems of underage drinking and over-serving, staff training is arguably the most crucial measure. The staff should get adequate training in spotting fake ID's and signs of intoxication. The staff should also be motivated to ensure strict enforcement as required by the Liquor Control and Licensing Act.
- b. **Security Staff:** On busy nights (Mondays and Fridays) there should be a security staff at the main entry point. This security staff should have adequate experience and must have BST2 level certification. This would be crucial in stopping minors from entering the



premises. On busy nights there should also be an additional security staff who would monitor the inside of the premises.

- c. More experienced head bar-tenders: Head bar-tenders assume the role of acting-manger in the absence of the manager and thus this position is key to the smooth functioning of the pub. This position shall be offered only to individuals with industry standard experience.
- d. ID Scanner: An ID scanner would be hand in spotting fake IDs, however, it is does not ascertain that a legitimate ID belongs to the person presenting it. The due diligence of staff members is most crucial and ID Scanner can be a good tool assisting the staff.
- e. RCMP Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) Program: There are continuous attempts by minors to sneak into the pub through the North-West side of the perimeter of the premises. We are seeking recommendations from RCMP via the CEPTED program to secure the perimeter and control the entry and exit points.
- f. Random checks by executive officers to report the level of enforcement: To ensure that the instituted measures are implemented the executive officers shall conduct random weekly checks and report the level of enforcement.

#### Meetings with UBC Officials

1. March 31, 2010 attended by Arvind (President), Edwin (VP Admin), Jai (VP Finance), Cisco (Senator) and Rick (Food & Beverage Manager)
2. April 14, 2010 attended by Arvind (President), Edwin (VP Admin) and Sedi (VP Acad. & Ext.)

In both of these meetings the proposed measures were discussed. It was generally agreed that the proposed measures are reasonable. It is important to ensure that the measure are truly effective and will be sustainable financially. During the April 14 meeting, UBC officials have expressed their lack of confidence in the pub management and would like to see improvement in the same. Similar sentiments were expressed by Brian Sullivan, Vice-President, Students on March 31 to the media.



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Steps Already taken:

- a. Freedom of information request has been filed with RCMP (Ottawa office) to obtain the police reports of the March incidents.
- b. A CEPTED assessment request has been made to campus RCMP.

Other penalties/liabilities:

- a. Shutdown Order from Liquor Inspector: We have been advised by UBC that a four day shutdown order from Liquor Inspector will be coming sometime this month. During the four day period Koerner's Pub, Ballroom and Thea's Lounge will be completely shut down and locked.
- b. Possible Lawsuit: It is likely that we will have a liability lawsuit due to the March 6 incident. Such a lawsuit may also affect our insurance premiums.

Other stakeholders:

- a. CUPE 116: We are meeting with the executives of CUPE 116 on March 15, 2010 to discuss their concerns regarding the license and communications with Food and Beverage manager.