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photo courtesy of Campus Kitchen

Alcohol policy faces criticism at open forum

Most panelists reject idea that MSU is intruding too far into students' lives

DEREK WEHRWEIN
editor in chief

Minnesota State officials defended proposed changes to the school's off-campus alcohol and drug policy at an open forum Thursday while welcoming student feedback and constructive criticism.

In a 90-minute discussion in the Centennial Student Union, Mankato Department of Public Safety Director Jerry Huettl, Minnesota State Student Association President Ryan Anderson, MSU President Richard Davenport and other university officials debated the merits of the changes and took questions from students, staff and faculty.

Anderson was the only panelist to object strongly to the proposed policy, which subjects students to university sanctions for off-campus drug or alcohol violations. MSSA unanimously opposes the policy change, criticizing it as a parental measure that intrudes too far into students' personal lives.

Other panelists rejected that idea on Thursday, however, arguing the proposed changes did no such thing.

"We do need to behave responsibly," Davenport said. "We're not overstepping our bounds when we ask students to behave responsibly. We're not overstepping our bounds when we find issues and problems with underage drinking. We're not unique in trying to address those problems."

Davenport said the off-campus behavior of those connected to the school — from president down to students — reflects on the university, a sentiment echoed by others on the panel.

Huettl noted that, as an MSU alumnus, he understood the need to adopt a policy with a sense of fairness to it. But high-risk and underage drinking have gotten worse in recent years, he said, making it necessary to

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TURKEYPALOOZA

Campus Kitchen gives, doesn't need thanks



- More than 100 volunteers will prepare
- More than 250 Thanksgiving dinners
- for 5 Mankato area shelters

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"Everything our volunteers do is making a difference in Mankato."

— Sammie Eckerson

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