

Cannabis Enforcement by Residential Life and the UConn Police Department

WHEREAS, At UConn, Resident Assistants are trained “not to knock on the doors of residents suspected of smoking marijuana out of concern for their own safety”¹

WHEREAS, RAs should not be compelled to come into contact with any illegal substance;

WHEREAS, Cannabis is legal for medicinal use in the state of Connecticut, however cannabis is not legal for any use “on any school grounds or on any public or private school, dormitory, college or university property”;²

WHEREAS, A student using legally prescribed and obtained cannabis on university grounds would be subject to arrest;

WHEREAS, UCPD officers issued over 30 drug charges within the first month of the Fall 2020 semester alone, a sharp increase from the same time last year;³

WHEREAS, UCPD resources currently allocated to drug enforcement may be more effective if dedicated to programs in other departments, including existing recovery services;⁴

WHEREAS, UCPD should not be called to or enter student residences where the danger of imminent harm is not present;

WHEREAS, RAs already receive training on the disposal of alcohol, another controlled substance;

WHEREAS, many universities allow for anonymous disposal of unwanted, unused, or expired drugs;^{5 6 7}

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, USG calls on the UConn Police Department and the Department of Residential Life to work in collaboration with students to design a cannabis enforcement policy that minimizes the involvement of UCPD in areas under the jurisdiction of Residential Life.

¹ [Letter to the Editor: An Open Letter to the Office of Residential Life](#)

² <https://portal.ct.gov/DCP/Drug-Control-Division/Drug-Control/Medical-Marijuana>

³ [Students deem UCPD marijuana search questionable](#)

⁴ [Alcohol, Other Substance Use, & Support | Student Health and Wellness](#)

⁵ <https://www.boston.gov/departments/recovery-services/drug-take-back-kiosks>

⁶ <https://news.uthsc.edu/prescription-drug-drop-box-available-for-use-on-campus/>

⁷ https://www.ulm.edu/news/2020/drug_drop_box_2020.html

Authors:

Damani R. Douglas, Chief Diversity Officer

Ethan Werstler, Vice-President-Elect of the Student Body

Mason Holland, President-Elect of the Student Body

Guillmar Valle, Vice President of the Student Body

Sponsors:

Student Services Committee

Rebecca Feldman, Student Services Advocacy Director

Neha Kataria, Parliamentarian of the Senate

Noah Frank, External Affairs Advocacy Director

Christine Jorquera, Student Development Advocacy Director

Katherine Spinnato, Academic Affairs Advocacy Director

Mitchel Kvedar, Hilltop Senator, State Affairs Coordinator

Certified:

Enacted:

March 24th, 2020

Luis Toscano

Speaker of the Senate

March 24th, 2020

Michael Hernández

President of the Student Body

Super Cool Bill Title: Bill #420 , A USG Statement on Cannabis on Campus

Whereas..

“A group of drug dealers interviewed by The Daily Campus collectively agreed about 5000 students in the then-Storrs student population were regular Cannabis users and at least 80 percent of then-UConn students had tried Cannabis at least once.”

^ Lots of students on campus smoke Cannabis, this is from the daily campus.
Thus lots of students smoke Cannabis, these aren't isolated events

Whereas...

The punishment is left to the discretion of the hall director. Punishments ranging from tickets to taking classes to community service.-- Should be consistent
Hall director discretion ^^ undue stress

Whereas....

The war on drugs is racist. “Richard Nixon’s top aide, John Ehrlichman, famously said that the war on drugs was designed to target “hippies and blacks.”

In Connecticut, black residents make up 41 percent of the prison population, despite only comprising 10 percent of the overall population. Latino/as make up 29 percent of the prison population [but only 13 percent of the overall population](#). Urban communities in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury have been hit hardest by these racial disparities.

Whereas..

At every stage of the criminal justice system, black and Latino/a Americans are treated more harshly than their white counterparts. Despite using Cannabis at similar rates, black Americans are almost four times as likely to be arrested for possession than white Americans. Black and Latino/a Americans make up approximately 30 percent of the population, but represent almost 80 percent of Americans incarcerated for drug offenses.

Whereas...

almost every facet of American life that is tied to social advancement and participation in civil society is denied or restricted for those with criminal records.

Whereas...

And a large chunk of this devastation can be directly linked to the racist over policing of Cannabis.

Whereas...

NOT legalizing Cannabis on campus

