



November 5, 2011 – Reston, Virginia
The BACCHUS Network Delegates Pass Annual Membership Fee

The BACCHUS Network is a nonprofit collegiate peer education initiative that supports the achievement of students' academic and personal success through building skills in student leaders to address campus health and safety issues. Our organization began as one student group at The University of Florida in 1975 and has grown to 700 peer education teams on college campuses today.

Students play a pivotal role in the leadership and direction of the organization. We elect student representatives in each of our twelve regions and elect two students to serve as full voting members on our governing Board of Trustees.

According to our organization bylaws, each year at our national conference, The BACCHUS General Assembly, one student from each campus in attendance represents his or her campus as a delegate. The delegates meet, discuss issues of importance to the network, and vote on important decisions. This year, the delegates discussed and voted upon a new membership plan for the network that includes an annual membership fee. The BACCHUS Network has never had a membership fee in its 36-year history, so this was a historic vote.

The delegates debated for nearly two hours the pros and cons of instituting a membership fee. Many students spoke with passion about the importance of the network, the support it provides to individual peer educators and campus groups, and the loss to the collegiate health promotion field should BACCHUS have to reduce its services. BACCHUS has seen a 60% decrease in funding support in recent years with the downturn of the economy. The delegates passed the new membership plan with 85% in favor of the fee.

In December, you will receive an invoice for \$300.00 from The BACCHUS Network for your membership fee for the 2012 calendar year. We realize that you may need advice and ideas on how to raise these funds. Please see our website to review the entire membership plan, the benefits of membership, and the support it provides. It describes the many benefits of affiliation with BACCHUS written by our students and professional staff advisors on campuses. It contains ideas on fundraising strategies developed by our national volunteers and student leaders. <http://www.bacchusnetwork.org/fundraising.html>
We also have a page explaining the benefits of membership that is helpful for peer education advisors who may seek funding for membership from supervisors and administrators. It can be viewed at <http://www.bacchusnetwork.org/benefits-of-affiliation.html>

We want your students to receive quality resources that support their leadership efforts on campus. This fee is only one source of support for the organization. We continue to seek out corporate partners, grants, and foundations that could support our work. We welcome your ideas and referrals on any opportunities that we could pursue to gain additional resources for our network to further support our campuses.

Student leaders and the advisors who work with them are doing important work to create healthy, safe campus environments. The BACCHUS Network supports and recognizes the dedication of our members. We hope you will continue with us as a proud affiliate.

Sincere thanks for all you do to promote health and safety,

Janet Cox
President/CEO