Interpretation and Clarification of UGA Alcohol Policy as it Applies to Study Abroad Programs

Two important campus-wide policies:

1). Full UGA Guidelines Concerning University Events Where Alcoholic Beverages Are Served or Provided (including events off campus under university sponsorship) may be found at

http://provost.uga.edu/index.php/policies-procedures/academic/academic-affairs/5-facilities-and-other-policies/501-use-of-campus-space-/501-3-guidelines-concerning-university-events-where-alcoholic-beverages-are-served-or-provided/

The guidelines, from a memo from President Adams dated August 2008, notes that “[t]he costs involved in implementing these guidelines... are minimal when compared to the potential liability facing the University and its officials if adequate safeguards are not taken. This matter requires your prompt attention. Questions concerning these guidelines should be addressed to the Office of Legal Affairs.”

2). Please also make sure that you are familiar with important UGA financial policies regarding the purchase of food and beverages, including alcohol, at this URL. The policy makes clear at several points that funds may not be used from any UGA accounts, including agency and auxiliary accounts, for the purchase of alcohol.

http://askuga.uga.edu/default.asp?id=1691&SID=&Lang=1

The following information does not supplant the UGA guidelines; rather, it clarifies how this policy applies to study abroad.

1. Faculty are strongly discouraged from providing alcohol for the students participating in their study abroad programs; faculty are not permitted to purchase alcohol from program funds and such expenditures cannot be reimbursed.

2. Students are expected to abide by the legal drinking age in the country or countries in which they are studying, as in the Conduct Regulations for Students: http://conduct.uga.edu/code_of_conduct/index.html

All regular student conduct regulations are applicable while a student is studying abroad.

3. In homestays and facilities contracted to provide housing services for students on a University of Georgia study abroad or exchange program, provided the primary purpose of those facilities is to provide housing (although they may additionally provide meals), and the university is not directly paying a salary to any employee (other than a general fee which covers housing services), the owners, managers and employees of such facilities are not officials, employees, or agents of the University. Therefore, policies established by the University of Georgia are not applicable in these situations.

4. In establishments contracted by the University or during events in which a private entity is contracted by the University to provide meals to students, policies regarding alcohol established by the University of Georgia shall be in full effect.
5. In choosing facilities to provide meal services, program directors should if at all possible avoid facilities that include alcoholic beverages (whether limited or self-service) in the price for meals. Whenever possible, program directors should clarify to the facility employees and to the students that pre-paid meals do not include alcohol and that university funds cannot be used for the purchase of alcohol.

6. Faculty should use orientations and other opportunities to educate and remind students about UGA’s alcohol policies.