

# Council on Sexual Violence Prevention

October 2, 2013  
10:30am – 12:00noon

## Minutes

### **1. Welcoming Remarks**

Susan Murphy, Vice President for Student and Academic Services, and Mary Opperman, Vice President for Human Resources and Safety Services welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the President's Council on Sexual Violence Prevention. Vice President Murphy reviewed the agenda, the Council charge and the legislative information sent out prior to the meeting. She thanked everyone for his or her willingness to serve on this council.

Vice President Murphy asked each person to introduce herself/himself and why they are serving on the council. It was noted that it was a great turnout for the first meeting of the group with 41 representatives/members in attendance.

### **2. Brief review of Council creation**

Vice President Murphy provided an overview of why the council was created. She also reviewed the steps taken by senior administration after several sexual assaults occurred in the fall of 2012. Since then the following things have happened:

- The University has revised the way in which students report incidents in accordance with the Department of Education Title IX directives
- Revised Policy 6.4 – Prohibited Discrimination, Protected Status Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault and Violence, including a new student adjudication process
- Offered a new first year student orientation program, *Speak About It*, piloted in January 2013 with positive feedback from students. In August, 2013, it was a required orientation event which resulted in 88% of all new students attending.
- The SHARE (Sexual Harassment and Assault – Response and Education) website was created ([share.cornell.edu](http://share.cornell.edu)) to be a comprehensive online resource for information about sexual harassment and sexual violence
- The Council on Sexual Violence Prevention was established and now launched
- Sexual Violence awareness training programs have been developed
- University continued to advance Title IX compliance, with a Title IX Coordinator and 3 deputy coordinators

### **3. Brief review/history of Cornell's leadership on sexual violence prevention**

Dr. Andrea Parrot provided a brief review of the 25 year history of the University's efforts to address sexual violence, particularly with leadership from the CARE (Cornell Advocates for Rape Education) Committee. Vice President Murphy thanked Andrea and then acknowledged that a 25-year effort does not make the issues go away--everyone's efforts are needed to continue this good work and sustain

attention on sexual violence prevention. She noted that the community is still not acting in the way we need them to on these issues, which are complex and challenging.

#### **4. Council structure/charge**

Tim Marchell led the group through the Council charge and structure.

- Reviewed the formal charge including initial Council Committees and Workgroups
  - Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting regularly since early September
  - Research and Evaluation Workgroup
  - Education and Outreach Workgroup
  - Probably need to use subgroups within the Education and Outreach Workgroup to identify and support best practices and evidence-based strategies, particularly for the many communities and opportunities on campus. Nina Cummings to lead this effort.
  - Council will work closely with all these groups
  - There will be a SHARE team, that will focus on support and services for victims/survivors
  - There is a relationship to Public Safety Advisory Committee, which is required by law. All members assigned to Public Safety Advisory Committee are members of the Council.

#### **5. Discussion**

For the remainder of the meeting, Council members provided feedback to a question posed by Vice President Murphy: “What types of issues and concerns do you believe the Council should be focusing on?”

The following were identified as key areas:

##### Data

- What do we know about sexual violence on campus, especially at Cornell, and what future research could inform Council efforts?

##### Intersectionality

- Gender intersects with many issues so need to be sensitive to many of the connected bias and discrimination issues simultaneously including cultural differences.

##### Student and staff education

- Peer education can be an important piece of educational initiatives. Undergraduate and graduate education and social norms are important to address.
  - Respect@Cornell: Eliminating Harassment and Discrimination: Over 6200 staff and faculty have completed this program.

##### Evaluation

- How will we track program effectiveness, identify gaps, consider best practices?
  - There is a research and evaluation work group under the Council.

##### Council composition

- Are the key campus constituencies represented on the Council?

#### Education, outreach and communication

- How do social media influence our campus climate?
- The SHARE (Sexual Harassment and Assault- Response and Education) website provides information, reporting options, and resources to campus community ([share.cornell.edu](http://share.cornell.edu)).
- Will there be efforts to keep campus community informed about work of Council?
  - Information about Council will be posted on SHARE site.

#### Future Council meetings

- Workgroups will meet consistently and regularly. Larger Council will meet each semester.

6. Vice President Murphy thanked everyone for their honest feedback and invited people to contact her, Vice President Opperman, Tim Marchell or Nina Cummings with any questions or concerns they want to voice.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2013.

Meeting closed at 12:04 pm, 10/2/13