

## President's Council on Sexual Violence Prevention

December 2, 2013

1:30pm – 3:00pm

### Minutes

Susan Murphy, Vice President for Student and Academic Services, welcomed everyone to the second council meeting. The minutes from the 10/2/13 Council meeting are posted on the SHARE web site. Vice President Murphy went over the agenda and then talked about a column by President Skorton published in the December 2, 2013 edition of the Cornell Daily Sun; an op/ed piece on sexual violence, including mention of the new Council. She encouraged all to read it.

### Brief summary/updates on workgroups and identified issues

Nina Cummings, Victim Advocate, reported on all the work that has been completed by subgroups since the October 2 Council meeting. She talked about the challenges to engaging stakeholders with so many diverse needs. As a result, five educational subgroups have been created to start.

Nina provided some brief updates on what the groups have discussed to date:

- **Graduate/Professional Student group** – Susan Riley, Group Leader
  - Many resources on campus perceived to be targeted toward the undergrad population and what would it take to change that so grads feel more included?
  - Diversity of cultural experiences of grads and professional students; how do we talk about these issues; establish CU expectations?
  - Residential living units for grads – typically domestic abuse more prevalent than sexual violence which adds additional concerns.
  - There is a major concern that our graduate students are not aware of the resources available to them; starting to work on how to communicate about these resources – group thought this should be the first thing to work on.
- **Men's initiative group** – Alexis Santi, Group Leader
  - Establish expectations for men and get them involved.
  - How to establish expectations for men on campus and how to get them engaged?
  - White Ribbon campaign – a good first step; awareness campaign directed at men in the residence halls could get them involved early.
- **Undergraduate student education group** - Laura Weiss, Group Leader
  - Looked at prevention and best practices
  - It seems like undergraduates don't fully understand the problems and don't understand the resources for reporting
  - Perhaps using social media more to provide information about reporting options;
  - Need to understand how to reach our undergraduate population better so they pay attention to information.
  - Establish a climate that when they arrive at CU they will be told what will be expected of them when they come here. May start with awareness.

- **Residential programs group** - Sarah Jones/Joe Burke, Group Leaders
  - New student programming for incoming students and transfers. Speak About it in place for Jan/Aug. orientation 2014. Discussion about other programs and program enhancement moving forward.
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- **Staff and Faculty Education group** – Laurel Parker, Group Leader. Laurel will pull together first meeting of this group.

Nina reported that the beginning steps for these sub groups are to work on identifying manageable timely initiatives, make recommendations as a result and propose long-term goals.

- They have talked about how to be transparent and engage our communications folks to communicate to campus about activities.
- Nora Salvatore has visited each subgroup to talk about the legal aspects and compliance with Title IX and SaVE Act (Sexual Violence Elimination Act) by the University. The groups will plan to fulfill compliance requirements of course, but not limit their work or recommendations to the compliance requirements.

### **Review of VAWA requirements for University compliance**

Nora Salvatore, Associate University Counsel, briefly reviewed the Violence Against Women Act amendments to the Clery Act. The VAWA amendments are the most significant expansion of campus sexual violence reporting and policy requirements since 1992, imposing new Clery Act requirements and codifying into law earlier Title IX guidance.

There are four major components to the new requirements:

- New crime statistics (domestic violence, dating violence and stalking) and new hate crime categories (national origin and gender identity) for inclusion in institutional annual security reports.
- New procedural requirements for student disciplinary proceedings in cases of sexual assault, intimate partner violence and stalking.
  - Policy 6.4 has already been revised and reflects these requirements
- Employees and students reporting sexual assault, intimate partner violence or stalking must be given written notices about rights, procedures, and resources/assistance available.
  - Students written notice is already done – on SHARE website; working on employee requirement
- Primarily prevention and awareness programs for incoming students and employees (faculty and staff) including:
  - Statement about prevention of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and the definition of these offenses
  - Definition of consent with reference to sexual activity
  - Safe and positive options for bystander intervention
  - Info on risk reduction and how to avoid potential attacks
  - All procedures within Policy 6.4

## Summary of research on perpetrators on college campuses

Tim Marchell, Director of Mental Health Initiatives and Kathy Zoner, Chief of Police, gave a presentation on “Sexual Violence: Perpetration and Prevention.” Tim discussed what the perceived problems are on campus, the continuum of sexual violence (harassment, coercion, and assault), what are/are not the causes, and what can/should be done to prevent the problems. He presented information about common beliefs and the realities about rape and causes for sexual violence.

Kathy talked about sexual violence from the law enforcement perspective, and provided crime statistics for the past three years. She added that alcohol has is present for almost all cases of sexual violence; it is used as a tool by perpetrators.

They concluded the presentation voicing the need for a formalized education process for all of campus – providing education upfront and from a male perspective are important components. We need to shift the belief that sexual violence is only a women’s issue and that we need a deeper understanding of perpetration and prevention.

After the presentation, a discussion was lead about the two research articles that were shared to all members prior to the meeting:

*Understanding the Predatory Nature of Sexual Violence*, by David Lisak, Ph.D.

<http://www.middlebury.edu/media/view/240951/original/>

The Evaluation of Campus-Based Gender Violence Prevention Programming: What We Know about Program Effectiveness and Implications for Practitioners

[http://www.vawnet.org/sexual-violence/summary.php?doc\\_id=3486&find\\_type=web\\_desc\\_AR](http://www.vawnet.org/sexual-violence/summary.php?doc_id=3486&find_type=web_desc_AR)

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2013, 1:00-2:30pm.

Meeting closed at 3:05 pm, 12/2/13.