

Council on Sexual Violence Prevention
Thursday February 18, 2016
1:00pm-2:30pm

Minutes

Ryan Lombardi, Vice President for Student and Campus Life welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

In Vice President Opperman's absence, Alan Mittman announced that Sarah Affel has been named the University's new chief Title IX Coordinator. Vice President Opperman will continue as the interim chief Title IX Coordinator until Sarah steps into her new role.

Updates

- Laura Weiss, Director, Women's Resource Center
 - Women's Resource Center spring activities:
 - Vagina Monologues will be presented to the campus community on February 20.
 - The Tri-Council is hosting a roundtable discussion for Cornell students and faculty on February 22 to share perceptions about campus sexual assault and other related topics.
 - Sexual Assault Awareness Week will be held April 11-15. Events are being organized by a group of students and will be posted soon.

- Marne Einarson, Assistant Director, Institutional Research and Planning
 - The Council Research and Evaluation Committee continues to examine the data from the spring 2015 Campus Climate report. "We should be using it to inform our discussions and decisions about key questions that are coming from our campus community." There was some discussion about how best to roll out this data to the campus community. The Committee will be issuing shorter, more manageable reports on key aspects of the data, such as incidence and prevalence, the graduate vs. undergraduate experience, the context in which assaults occurred, etc. The first report on incidence and prevalence should be completed by the next Council meeting in April.
 - The committee is also looking at the survey instrument that was used last spring to guide what will be used for the next survey round (Spring 2017).

Presentations

- **Evaluating the Gap in Sexual Assault Reporting: Survey and Clery Data**
 - Liz Karns, MPH, JD, Dept. of Social Statistics; Advocate for the Complainant, presented an analysis of data comparing Cornell complaints that are required by the Clery Act to be reported and those made at other colleges and universities.

- **Reporting and Investigating Cornell Complaints 2013-2015**
 - Jody Kunk-Czaplicki, Interim Judicial Administrator, shared an overview of reports made by students to the Judicial Administrator's office and those that proceeded with formal complaints.
 - Alan Mittman, Deputy Title IX Coordinator
 - Since 7/1/15 our office has received 16 formal complaints under TIX, including 13 with alleged sexual violence, 1 with alleged domestic violence and possible sexual violence and 2 sexual harassment cases. One sexual violence case has been formally adjudicated by a panel, 4 have been submitted to panels and 11 cases are pending for investigation. In addition, 5 new matters are under consideration by students for formal complaints and 1 sexual harassment matter is in mediation. Last academic year there were 8 formal investigations in total per Jody's data.

Vice President Lombardi opened up the floor for reaction to the two presentations:

- People's knowledge of available resources and options once they report is lacking. Lots of people are working hard, but there are still a lot of people that don't know what Cornell offers. This is very frustrating for those working to get the education out there. There is a fairly large segment that still thinks that they can get away with things because people won't report.
- It is more complicated than just getting out and providing education; the AAU data reports that an overwhelming number of people that haven't reported felt that it wasn't important enough (or didn't want to report). "If I don't think it's serious enough and it will go away, why should I report?"
- There is still a lot of shame and embarrassment among students who are victimized. This needs to be addressed. The sense of confidentiality and protection still needs to be emphasized.
- The statute of one year limits reporting for some.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: we have made efforts to offer sexual assault survivor's support groups. We don't get enough members to keep it going. What is the deterrent and why are so few students interested in a group? Are there different ways to frame the group, offer the services that we are not considering?
- LGBT communities: they are small groups and it's hard for them to reach outside their own cohort. There can be social isolation, the communities are small. Reporting a member of the community carries great risk and vulnerability for victims.
- The Advocacy Center: Knowing the resources; there are also resources outside of CU. We struggle as well and with the same issues. What the victims are going through

outside of Cornell; what they are dealing with once it goes to criminal court. We work on these issues all the time; we continue to think through on how we can support the victims.

- The reality: As the legal process drags out, victims have to work within the system for a long time. Then if it goes to trial, it could be a couple of years before closure. Even then, sometimes there is not enough to have a successful outcome and it contradicts the emphasis on students to report in order to hold individuals accountable for the criminal behavior.