

Council on Sexual Violence Prevention
Thursday April 21, 2016
1:00pm–2:30pm

Minutes

Mary Opperman, Vice President for Human Resources welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

Vice President Opperman introduced Sarah Affel, the University's new Title IX Coordinator to the group. Sarah will be working on a part-time basis until the completion of her maternity leave and returns full-time in August.

Activity updates and announcements were provided by Council members:

- Laura Santacrose – Health Initiatives Coordinator with the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives at Gannett – reported on the new Bystander Intervention video project. They are currently at the filming stage and the video should be completed and ready for use in the late fall 2016. They are currently looking for more student volunteers as “extras” to take part in this project.
- Julie Paige, Asst. Dean of Students, discussed upcoming Slope Day activities. They need volunteers especially in Gap Coverage (40 additional people needed). To counteract the risk of high alcohol consumption, there will be a new pre-Slope Day breakfast. Volunteers will hand out egg sandwiches and fruit at assorted locations on campus to be sure those heading to Slope Day have substantial food in their stomachs before they begin drinking alcohol.
- Laura Weiss, Director, WRC:
 - Sexual Assault Awareness Week took place on campus in April. Sixty co-sponsorships participated this year. Events were well attended. Already planning for next year.
 - Annual Take Back the Night March is scheduled for April 29 starting at 6:00pm
- Theoria Cason, Assistant Director, RNSP
 - CORE RAs – Twenty-one RAs selected to represent their residence halls. They meet prior to the start of the semester for training and education, then lead activities and events with their areas throughout the year with our student population. There were many great events held throughout the semester in subjects such as sexual violence awareness and prevention, alcohol awareness, and reporting.
- Jessie Bonney Burrill/CSC Program
 - Culture change/Cornell Social Consultant program – Group of students (18) hired in October to provide education but to create and develop interventions that will lead to better environments while simultaneously reducing sexual assault risk. They work with different groups and planning committees on campus, especially Greek life, athletics, lgbt students and other affiliations.
- Marne Einarson, Assistant Director, IRP:
 - Busy year with all the new AAU data. Doing presentations across campus about the data. This summer the Research and Evaluation Committee of the Council will be working on creating brief reports to share data. These reports narrow the focus of a specific set of data to make it more manageable and useful. Climate Survey Report #1: A Closer Look which will focus on incidence and prevalence of unwanted sexual contact in the undergraduate population is almost completed and ready to share. It will be posted on the share website next week.

Marne Einarson, Assistant Director, IRP

More AAU survey results: Participation in student organizations and prevalence of sexual violence

Harvard recently released analyses showing the prevalence of nonconsensual sexual violence among female seniors based on their participation in different types of student clubs and organizations. We have replicated this analysis with our own AAU survey results. Marne offered a presentation on the comparison data.

Comments from the group about the presentation:

- Some of the students at risk could cross over several of the groups.
- This analysis does not imply that the violence happened within the group, it just shows an association between an incident and that the victim was a member of a group.
- Observation: incidents of touching are easier to talk about than penetration.
- It's a start, but it is very hard to see any correlations that could be put to use.
- Role of alcohol in these results should be looked at—the direct effects of alcohol on these incidents is an important contextual element.
- Higher prevalence of interactions can elevate risk (more occurrences); could affect these results.
- Non-consensual penetration – tactics used – did it vary?
- Threat of physical force – higher than incapacitation. Would have expected differently.
- Some folks in the political and social groups have more awareness and so might report more.
- Data needs to be dug into more. We need to make sure that we don't label or miss other areas where we should have more education—we don't really know the reasons the some groups are higher than others.
- There may be cohort differences—cultural differences or different things that students are experiencing on campus including education.
- Representative from the Tri-Council reported:
 - –The Interfraternity Council has required all chapters to provide education by Slope Day
 - Panhellenic Council initiated safe sisters and social monitors at events
 - Stickers on bathroom doors in fraternities with resources to call for help
 - Cayuga Watchers – new data metric, after every event. Students are working Slope day

Mary: Just like we heard from Melanie Boyd's presentation in the fall, we need to move upstream – focus our energies on the culture and education, such as what the Tri-Council is doing. We need to focus on how we get some of this information out about all the things that are going on; building awareness of what resources and information is out there. The more you know, the more likely you are to speak up when something happens or something is wrong.

Comments from the group:

- Used in "consequences" classes: a student talked about his sister's incident anonymously about what happened and that the person didn't get consent.
- Affirmative consent: what it is? The University should create a video so students understand in real terms.
- Through the Title IX process there is an effort to get more info out of reports that doesn't identify the victim
- People are not coming to sexual assault awareness activities; how do we get to them?

- Bystander intervention is very important because it takes another approach: protecting and looking out for your friends—in addition to sexual assault education
- Need to operate at multiple levels: what does it mean to move further upstream? Need to foster more discussion about what would be the ideal
- How do we get this info out? Helping people to feel more comfortable about learning and talking about student's sexual culture.
- No data about the perpetrators? Is there any data that could be gathered that could be useful? Most data comes from the victim and what they divulge about the perpetrator if available.
- Reiterate the roll of the environment. Propose a broad situation; whether students would feel comfortable to be a bystander and intervene. If we could use location of incidents that would help.
- Students should be required to take a course on sexual violence prevention.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm