

Council on Sexual Violence Prevention

March 10, 2017
2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

MINUTES

Vice Presidents Mary Opperman and Ryan Lombardi welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

Announcements:

- **Laura Weiss**, Director, Women's Resource Center
 - **April 2017 Sexual Assault Awareness Week**: student planning is in full swing for the week of April 17th. Students are trying to partner with other departments/units within the campus community. Their plan is to offer two programs per day. The schedule will be published online at their website. Right now, they plan for April 21st as a "Call to Action" day to end the week with plans for next steps. VP Lombardi will be invited.
- **Shura Gat**, Program Coordinator, SCLCE
 - **March Student Leadership Summit**: "*Beyond Consent*," a summit for student leaders planned for March 19 will offer students a chance to move the conversation beyond the subjects of "consent" and get students involved in thinking about opportunities for sustained change. So far 22 group representatives have accepted the invitation to attend. The opening will be a presentation about Intersectionality by Cornell Woodsen, followed by 2 workshops to help students consider culture change theory.
- **Sarah Rubenstein- Gillis**, Cornell Health Counseling & Psychological Services
 - **"Moving Forward after Sexual Violence" group**: Cornell Health will offer a support group for women survivors of sexual assault; they are trying to get the word out to students about its availability.
- **Nina Cummings**, Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator at Cornell Health's Skorton Center for Health Initiatives
 - ***Consent is not enough: Engaging our community to prevent sexual/dating violence***: On March 9 there was a program at Ithaca High School to generate public engagement about how to talk with young people about sexual violence before they leave home for college. The conversation centered on how to have conversations with teenagers about difficult subjects and lessons learned from Higher Ed with applicability to the high school setting. The program was well-received, and parents and teachers stayed after the panel to continue the conversations.

Presentations & Discussion:

Council structure changes: Tim Marchell, director of Cornell Health's Skorton Center for Health Initiatives

VP Lombardi provided context for the planned changes, saying that, after taking time to understand the university and the many Councils that exist, he asked key staff to reevaluate the current structures and to identify where there is duplication. Tim then outlined a proposal for a new structure that would provide leadership but reduce duplication and help streamline staff time spent in meetings.

Members were reminded that Gannett Health Services becomes Cornell Health on March 22, 2017 when the new website launches and before newly-admitted students begin completing their health requirements.

Tim then outlined the role of a new Behavioral Health Committee (BHC) to address various health topics. The CSVP (Council) will become a *Coalition* that will continue to meet throughout the academic year. A new sub-committee will combine the Educational Strategies Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee and report directly to the BHC.

- *Comments/Questions:*
 - Fewer committees are a good thing. Everything we do also needs to include the rest of the community (faculty and staff).
 - How does Title IX and staff concerns fit into the structure?
 - Sarah Affel and Laurie Johnston will serve on the new subcommittee.
 - What is the difference between the subcommittee and coalition?
 - Committees are involved in detailed planning vs the coalition having overarching interests for the community
 - SHARE acronym: Should it be applied to the new Coalition as the SHARE Coalition?
 - Responses:
 - The general sense is that students don't like the current SHARE website. Reconsider using the SHARE name.
 - There is a plan to look at the SHARE navigation, the resources, education etc. to improve the site.
 - The SHARE "brand" is not currently well-known to many students. So using the term "SHARE" to refer to the coalition, may confuse students.
 - The SHARE site is pushed out in the weekly messages from CUPD. It is also on many other webpages.
 - Tim: If people have other comments, please send them forward.

OCR Guidance and Site Visit: Sarah Affel, Title IX Coordinator

Sarah provided an update on Cornell's commitment to its policies and practices notwithstanding the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) recent withdrawal of its guidance on transgender students. She also described OCR's visit to the Ithaca campus in relation to the current investigation into Cornell's handling of the Title IX cases.

- The U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Civil Rights revoked the right of transgender students, including the use of facilities that correspond to their gender identity. Cornell already has equitable practices in place and our policies remain unchanged by the recent actions of the federal law. We need everyone's help in getting this message out across campus.
 - Conversations with facilities personnel and the Cornell Police have been helpful. Police will respond to problem conduct, not to individuals operating in the regular course of their academic or staff demands. If there are concerns in a certain building, Sarah's office should be contacted.
 - This information was sent out to all HR managers and contacts across campus.
 - From time to time professors send out notices to classes where they ask students to designate their gender. We need to look at the systems as well to make sure they are compliant (e.g. survey tools) with our policies of inclusion.
- The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) came to campus as a part of their investigative hearing process. Because we recently had a change to our adjudication structure on campus (e.g. now, after a complaint is filed there will be an Investigation, followed by a hearing process). In a couple of

weeks, Sarah will reach back out for comments about the process that has been in place this past year. If new changes are needed, they would be need to be in place by August, 2017.

- *Comments/questions:*
 - Are the number of cases going up?
 - Yes. The number of reports have gone up as well as formal complaints.
 - What is the difference between cases involving Policy 6.4 and the Campus Code of Conduct?
 - Everything used to be adjudicated under the Code. The sexual violence cases are now under Policy 6.4. (gender & sexual violence cases)
 - It is good that we can let the community know about the reported complaints. Is it possible to communicate the statistics and report the difference between formal complaints and reports?
 - That is being looked into.
 - It is frustrating that information about Cornell processes is being communicated inaccurately by sources such as the Cornell Sun (see article this past week).
 - Inaccurate reporting is a continual source of frustration, particularly with the Sun. There have been efforts to engage the student editors to help them use protocols and standards that would improve the quality and more importantly the accuracy of their stories.

Ryan and Mary thanked all in attendance.

Meeting concluded at 3:32pm