

# Coalition on Sexual Violence Prevention

September 28, 2018

9:00am-10:30am

## Minutes

Vice Presidents Ryan Lombardi and Mary Opperman welcomed everyone to the meeting. They acknowledged the current political climate and coverage related to these issues and reminded everyone present of resources for students. Mary made a point of reminding staff to also take care of themselves.

## Updates

- **LGBT Resource Center** – Christopher Lujan, LGBTRC Director

Christopher introduced himself as the new director of the LGBTRC. He feels his previous position as the Pride Center Coordinator at San Diego State University has prepared him for his work here as well as other related experience. He hopes to work with groups at Cornell to reach out to survivors and stay connected to these issues.

## **Title IX Office** – Chantelle Cleary, Title IX Coordinator

Chantelle introduced herself as the new Title IX Coordinator. She also introduced her new staff person, Theoria Cason. Theoria has been with RNSP and is now the education coordinator for the Title IX Office.

Chantelle described a more concentrated focus of her office: working and spending time with students, inviting them to share their experiences and learning more about Title IX. She will be holding open office hours to ask what has and has not worked about Cornell's response, and what can be done to improve. She wants to move the office more toward prevention and education, now that much of the procedural and policy issues have been implemented with Sarah Affel's past leadership. There will also be trainings coming up in order to stay in compliance with recent revised New York State Laws.

- **Graduate & Professional student compliance**

Nina Cummings, Sexual Violence Prevention Program Director, announced that as of this year, 91% of all graduate and professional students had completed the required onboarding online sexual violence training.

- **Survivor group**

Sarah Rubenstein-Gillis, Clinical Social Worker, announced that she and Laura Weiss will be co-facilitating monthly meetings for survivors of sexual violence. These support groups will provide a safe space to survivors and teach coping mechanisms.

## Presentation & Discussion

- **Moving forward with EAAA (Enhanced: Assess, Acknowledge, Act): Implementation and Assessment.** Laura Weiss, Sexual Violence Program Coordinator and Perdita Das-Humphrey, Residence Hall Director, Balch Hall  
Laura and Perdita reviewed the EAAA framework, the data showing effectiveness, their experience attending the EAAA Training-for-trainers in Windsor, Ontario this summer.

They discussed preliminary implementation plans at Cornell during the next year.

Tim Marchell, Director of the Skorton Center for Health Initiatives, reported that a private foundation has expressed interest in funding a study of EAAA at 5 U.S. schools. Cornell has agreed to participate if the grant is awarded. The study would run separately from the current plan to develop and assess EAAA for our students.

- **Comments & observations from Coalition members:**
  - Appreciation for the staff that are opting to be facilitators of this program (Five full-time Cornell staff have volunteered-with supervisor approval-to be facilitators). This training to be a facilitator is 86 hours. The actual EAAA program for students is 12 hours.
  - Several members were interested to see more of the content of the actual program.
  - Concern about how inclusive this program is. How will non-binary students be able to participate? What about women-identified students who are not heterosexual? Is it appropriate for them? There are risks in multiple communities. *(Perdita acknowledged that this program was specifically designed for first-year women and to prevent violence against women perpetrated by men. The studies show effectiveness for that use only. In that way, EAAA is narrow in focus.)*
  - Who will participate in the spring pilot program? *(There will be pilots targeted to specific audiences: Athletic teams, scholar groups to assess and gather feedback.)*
  - Because this program is developed specifically for women-identified, first-year students, there are active discussions about reaching other students (non-gendered, men) in other ways.
  - There will be a need to schedule a “dry-run” for the new facilitators to get experience leading each of the program modules and CSVP members were interested in being notified when the dry runs will be. Some staff would like to participate to learn more about the program.
  - A question about whether this program is appropriate for older students/grads: It could still have some effectiveness but much of the discussion and the activities are designed for first-year students entering college. There was some concern the activities may be too simple for more experienced students.
  - One member expressed concerns about how to effectively advertise this program to students. “I’m sure a lot of students will think that this is a way of shifting responsibility of preventing sexual assault to women. That campaign will have to be very thoughtful as to not shut down this program before it even starts. “

- Response: “We can advertise this as a tool that women can use, not as a panacea to stopping violence on campus.” “We could hold information sessions before we recruit students. It’s more time investment, but that could clear up a lot of concerns that students would have.”
- A few members liked the idea of establishing it as a course (Engaged Cornell?) and rewarding academic credit.
- It sounds like the data is compelling and it teaches empowerment. Is there anything about the data that shows the effect on empowerment? This could be a way to market the program.
- “Flip the Script” is what this program is called on other campuses piloting it and the tag line was well-received. We can look into names that would be attractive to our students. While this is happening, recognize the gaps in the program. Make sure to offer alternate support groups/opportunities for the populations that can’t participate.
- We could use testimonials from students who complete the program in the spring to advertise for the fall. Students who have gone through the program view it very positively; this could be effective advertising.
- Have there been problems in recruiting for EAAA on other campuses?
- Is the potential grant money for the study substantial? How will we define success of the program? What are the incentives for students to participate in the study? *(Folks with questions about the student can contact Tim.)*
- Advertise it as a tool, not a perfect solution. It is not a self-defense course, but a women’s empowerment program.