

Council on Sexual Violence Prevention

Wednesday September 30, 2015

1:00-2:30pm

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions

VPs Mary Opperman/Ryan Lombardi

Ryan Lombardi, new Vice President for Student and Campus Life, and Mary Opperman, Vice President for Human Resources, welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

Ryan Lombardi offered some remarks about his commitment to this issue.

Updates for 2015-2016

Concept/goals of the culture change model:

Nina Cummings

Last year, Dr. Melanie Boyd's presented to the CSVP on an innovative strategy to change campus culture by focusing on solutions (fostering ideals), rather than on tackling the bad behavior (stopping rape). At the last Council meeting of spring 2015, we reported on the outcomes of a very small pilot based on Dr. Boyd's culture change vision. Our pilot showed promise, so we hired a Public Health Fellow, Jessie Bonney-Burrill, to take the project to a larger scale this year. While still a pilot, this larger scale will enable us to assess effectiveness and determine whether this long term strategy should be sustained.

Cornell Social Consultant (CSC) Project

Jessie Bonney-Burrill

Over 40 extremely qualified undergrads applied to be a CSC; all undergraduate students with some organization or group affiliation. It will be a bottom-up approach, with student ideas taking guidance within a culture change framework. There will be 20-25 students hired to implement small interventions to improve the social culture while simultaneously reducing risk

New Title IX structure/Interim policy

Lynette Chappell-Williams

- A new Title IX coordinator structure applies on 3 Cornell campuses (Ithaca, Cornell Tech, Weill Cornell Medical). Each connects to the same Chief Title IX Officer. Ulysses Smith tracks complaints that come in through Maxient and routes the information to the right resource on campus.
- The revision of policy 6.4 includes a goal of writing a very brief summary. The plan is to finish this revision within the next 10 days, gather community input and roll out the new policy in January 2016. Policy 6.4 contains issues beyond sexual violence; thus, there are a lot of procedures that will be addressed at Cornell. The Share.cornell.edu website includes the updated Title IX structure.

Announcement:

Juliana Batista, Student Assembly President

On 10/1/15 (after the Student Assembly meeting) there will be an open dialogue for students and the Cornell community to respond, comment and ask questions about the AAU survey results. Council members are invited to attend and bring thoughts.

Marne Einarson, Director of Institutional Research & Planning, presented an overview of the Cornell findings from the AAU survey on Sexual Violence and Sexual Misconduct (see Powerpoint: CSVP Overview of Survey Results).

Discussion

- Initial impressions of the data?

Graduate student comments

- Would like to know more information on the differences of sexual violence statistics based on race and ethnicity
- We may have to hold more programs to reach more students.
- We need to have a larger sample for responses, and have this come more frequently to see if there is improvement in results.
- Why were 20% of students unsatisfied after they told someone? We need to figure this out.
- Not enough information is given to graduate students.
- 26% of grad student assault is by faculty members. This is possibly due to the close relationship with them (power differential) – so we shouldn't just focus on first year students. Graduate students need consistent awareness of resources.

Undergraduate student comments

- There was a lot on information about the student who is victimized but not much information on abuser/perpetrator data.
- 34% that believe that nothing is going to get done when they report. Believes the overall student perception that they just fill out a form and that is it and nothing will happen is troubling.
- There is a lack of awareness of the resources and who you can talk to after victimization. Leads to a dark cloud hovering over the Cornell administration. There is a disconnection between student body and Cornell administration.
- We need to make reporting more digestible for the Cornell student. Once a student does report, they should not have to go all the way to Cayuga Medical Center to get a rape kit. We should be able to offer SANE exams on campus.
- Students are not going to take the time to read the AAU survey.
- We are doing a good job in terms of awareness and education, but we are reaching the same populations over and over again. For example, we have focused a lot of athletes and Greek. Can we reach other demographics?
- Some victims are less willing to come forward because of the social repercussions. It is very complicated to disclose.

- While there is a lot of good information given to freshmen, it is an overload. A lot of people don't remember this info when they need it. So, the information should be given out over time and repeated, so they can better recall throughout their four years.
- If there isn't consent, it's sexual assault. We need to change the culture among the students—because they don't think what happened is serious. So, while it is great for the full range of resources we have at Cornell, we need to change the mindset students have on the seriousness of this issue.

Faculty comments

- Faculty training is important because they can learn where the resources are for them to forward students to the correct places. Not just to prevent faculty as perpetrators, but also being the frontline because they work with students a lot.
- Mandatory section in all the syllabus. Sexual assault resources, mental health: have the number right there
- Not just faculty that needs training, but staff members.

Staff comments

- In the past 8 years, wanted to figure out a way to make a mandatory training for faculty, so they can be a better liaison between resources and students.
- There have been a series of changes—there are confidential resources (medical and mental health providers at Gannett and victim advocates.) This gives students the control.
- Military: Over the years, there is split reporting between informal and formal. Informal involved getting more control – they don't want attention, they just want more control and to get the medical services. It offer a good option.
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Vice President Opperman

- If you are a victim of a violent assault, you need to have the opportunity to get the control back. We need to realize why there are good parts to reporting (so, we don't get an unintended chilling effect.) We need to let the students come first, and let them regain the control.
- Suggestions for upcoming meetings:
 - Nora Salvatore, Counsel's Office, could provide a better understanding of our compliance with 129-B NYS law.
 - More conversation on training for specific sectors at Cornell.

Next Council Meeting: December 2, 2015.

