

Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual and Relationship Violence
December 10, 2015
3:00 – 5:00 pm

Attendees:

Lois Agnew	Andrew London
Randi Bregman	Bobby Maldonado
Andria Costello-Staniec	Joanna Masingila, co-chair
Katelyn Cowen	Cathryn Newton
Herman Frazier	Gabe Nugent
Tula Goenka	Pam Peter
Huey Hsiao	Adam Rothstein
Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz, co-chair	Cory Wallack
Sam Leitermann	Barry L. Wells
Lynn Levey	

Joanna Masingila explained the structure of the Task Force, which uses the Education Advisory Board model. Masingila said that there will not be additional members added, however, interested people can be added to our working committees. The committees are charged with making recommendations to the Chancellor for policies/procedures that are not currently in effect on campus. Implementation is not the responsibility of the Task Force but should be considered. The co-chairs anticipate that a lot of positive change can come out of the committee work.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with two minor corrections.

Barry L. Wells reviewed the plans for a Task Force website. It will be part of the Title IX/sexual violence portal. Members offered some suggestions including: add a FAQ section; guard against giving too much information; recommend no more than three clicks to get to the sexual and relationship violence resources website; survivors' truths would be a good addition; add targeted information for faculty, parents and families.

The Communications and Outreach committee reported. The Graduate Student Organization, the Student Association, and the ESF Student Involvement and Leadership Office are forming a group and they will be a good vehicle for the Task Force to communicate with students. The Task Force will recommend that a statement regarding sexual and relationship violence be added to all syllabi, which was also a recommendation of the Chancellor's Workgroup, to start in the spring semester. This prompted some discussion among the group about timing and process. It was ultimately suggested that the Task Force should first issue a memo of intention to take this action, work to educate faculty on the subject, and encourage their comfort with the process. We should also set training dates and publicize them on the website.

The Policies & Procedures Committee reported that they have changed their charge. The committee will assemble and review the institution's sexual and relationship violence reporting, advocacy, investigation and adjudication policies and procedures. The committee will identify areas of success and improvement that are consistent with promising practices and evidence based strategies

The Assessment Committee reported that they are researching what's available and what's not as far as assessment of our sexual and relationship violence data and to identify gaps.

The Education & Prevention Committee has been generating ideas and working on ways to intersect with on-going programs on campus. The Office of Health Promotion is very effective regarding education, although with limited staff. The Title IX office is also hiring an education specialist. Members cautioned that having consistency in our messaging is important.

Katelyn Cowen gave an update on spring events. Her staff person is retiring at the end of the year and Cowen will be on maternity leave for part of the semester, but she hopes to have a new person in place by early February. "Take Back the Night" is scheduled for March 30th and there is a committee planning the event using the previous model. "It's On Us" week will be the first week in April and a student committee will work on that. AMI (A Men's Issue) have been asked to host their "Break the Silence" open mic night during that week. The "Vera House White Ribbon Campaign" will be the entire month of March, so these events will flow together. Tula Goenka asked if we should do the "SU Rising" candlelight vigil again; we may need to form an ad hoc planning group for that. There will be "Speak About It" incoming student training on January 19th.

It would be good to have a Google calendar for the Task Force. We will work to create that.

Reed Kantrowitz and Masingila will submit a brief summary of what the Task Force is doing to the Chancellor on December 15th.

The group discussed NOT ALONE, the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault report. Pam Peter explained the articulation agreement in which the OCR (Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education) articulates what a school/college who has Title IX complaints filed against it needs to do to correct violations. The members are encouraged to read the report.

For spring, there will be Task Force meetings once a month. The members would like to see particular agenda items including: what is our students experience in the health care environment; is there under-reporting among certain populations and if so, who are they and how we can increase reporting?

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm