

Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual and Relationship Violence
April 20, 2017
9:00 – 11:00 am

Attendees:

Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz, co-chair	Bobby Maldonado
Joanna Masingila, co-chair	Suzette Melendez
Randi Bregman	Abby Perer
Katelyn Cowen	Amy Quichiz
Linda Stone Fish	Sarah Solomon
Herman Frazier	Jeffrey Stanton
Tula Goenka	Derrick Taylor
Andy Gordon	Cory Wallack
Tiffany Gray	Samantha Skaller, ex-officio
Daria Grineva	Denise Dowdall, support staff
Joyce LaLonde	

Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz, co-chair and Joanna Masingila, co-chair, greeted the group. Members introduced themselves.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

Chief Maldonado reviewed the student sexual assault complaint process.

- The Department of Public Safety (DPS) reports all cases of sexual assault to the Title IX office and the Syracuse Police Department (SPD).
- The student can choose whether to pursue the case criminally.
- DPS, as well as other SU departments and Vera House, all provide support to the student during the process.
- In cases where the SPD is involved, that agency leads the initial investigation and decides if appropriate to move forward toward prosecution. This process can delay our investigation and our legally required response within 60 days.
- Members suggested that the Task Force send a letter to the SPD encouraging them to sign an agreement with DPS to allow more and earlier involvement in cases.
- Members also encouraged Maldonado to collaborate with other area colleges that may face the same challenges.
- Maldonado and Samantha Skaller have a meeting scheduled with SPD Chief Fowler to present the student perspective, discuss ways to work together, and expedite the process.

Abby Perer gave an update on the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) case. OCR has interviewed four employees and we have provided the OCR with supplemental information but have not heard anything more from them. Perer observed that there is a new director of OCR and these are uncertain times for that agency.

Spring programming was successful:

- There was a good turnout for Take Back the Night, even without mandatory attendance for sororities, which was done in the past but is not best practice. The Task Force served hot chocolate before the walk but given that it interrupted the flow of the event the task force will assume a different role next year.
- The It's On Us events are continuing and we need more volunteers for cup set-up and takedown. The Be Orange training was successful. SU Rising will take place on the steps of Hendriks Chapel. There was recruiting in the dining halls for peer educators. Campus buildings were lighted in teal.
- The Vera House White Ribbon Campaign both raised funds for and educated people about the services of Vera House. Barry Wells has been selected as this year's Sister Mary Vera Recognition Award recipient.

The group discussed the efficacy of training for faculty and staff. Reed Kantrowitz said that the Campus Climate Assessment Recommendations will include training. We want to create culture change from both the ground up and the top down.

The group observed that there is a great deal of programming at SU and often events overlap. There is a campus calendar but it is not routinely used. This issue is recognized and will be part of the role of the new Vice President of Communications.

Joanna Masingila announced that she is stepping down from Task Force to take on another assignment from the Chancellor. She thanked the group for their participation and collegiality.

There will be a Task Force meeting over the summer, date to be announced.

-Meeting adjourned-