

Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual and Relationship Violence  
April 27, 2018

Attendees:

|                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz, co-chair | Suzette Melendez       |
| Diane Lyden Murphy, co-chair      | Ashley O'Mara          |
| Randi Bregman                     | Kathryn Pataki         |
| Emily Durand                      | Jeffrey Pauline        |
| Tula Goenka                       | Pam Peter              |
| Andy Gordon                       | Sarah Solomon          |
| Rob Hradsky                       | Linda Stone Fish       |
| Huey Hsiao                        | Cory Wallack           |
| Sheila Johnson                    | Barry L. Wells         |
| khristian kemp-delisser           | Ralph Zito             |
| Bobby Maldonado                   | Denise Dowdall, scribe |

Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz welcomed the Task Force members and guest, Don McPherson. The group introduced themselves.

Diane Murphy commented on the forum at Hendricks Chapel held in response to the Theta Tau video incident. The forum was respectful, well-articulated, and productive. This event was one of several held by groups around campus, and people seem to be coalescing around ideas.

Murphy heard students question if speaking up and/or protesting would have a negative impact on their relationships with faculty or ability to get into a master's program, which she dispelled. Activism is a valued tradition in higher education.

A common comment at the focus group events has been a call for more and better communication, which many people feel has long been insufficient.

Reed Kantrowitz acknowledged that several members of the Task Force are front line responders who have worked diligently over the last few days supporting our students, and thanked them for their service.

Rob Hradsky gave a brief update of actions taken in response to the incident.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last meeting, which was seconded and approved.

Barry L. Wells introduced guest speaker, Don McPherson. McPherson presented on "Activism to Education: A Plan for Higher Education".

McPherson talked about a better approach to changing the culture on campus by teaching students to not simply recognize sexual violence but to become change agents; to aspire to change behaviors and create healthy self-image and healthy relationships. This is particularly applicable for men, who often have distorted beliefs about what it means to be a man. Also, we in higher education do not talk frankly about sex and sexuality so students find information elsewhere including through pornography.

Murphy mentioned some courses in the Falk School that deal with inclusive human sexuality and said that they are always filled because students are hungry for this information.

Christian Kemp-Delisser suggested crafting interventions and expanding our messages to include non-binary men. McPherson commented that in his experience cisgender men benefit from expanding their notions of gender identity and they learn when trans and gender non-binary members of their community are invited to the table.

Cory Wallack commented that men often tend to deal with depression with sex, alcohol, and drugs. He recommended a book: *I Don't Want to Talk about It: Overcoming the Secret Legacy of Male Depression* by Terrence Real.

Task Force members said that faculty need more training in understanding and using the language of diversity and inclusion while dealing with students. The challenge is that some faculty are not interested in such training and cannot be compelled to participate. Members made suggestions for compelling faculty such as making training a condition for grants, research funds, and raises. The Task Force will formalize a recommendation to the Chancellor along these lines.

Ralph Zito talked about the fall Department of Drama season, during which they will do a series of events around a play, *Good Kids*, which directly addresses issues of sexual and relationship violence and their relationship to alcohol (without re-enacting them onstage.) Zito asked the Task Force to brainstorm possibilities for surrounding events and for one or two members to work with him to plan and execute events.

Among the ideas are panel discussions; a talkback after some of the performances; incorporating the play into Freshmen Forum; and creating a list of related, provocative reading.

Randi Bregman offered Vera House support for planning the event and participating in the panel, in addition to providing support for survivors who may be triggered by the event. Bregman thought that the Campus Project Team would have much to offer to the many aspects of the production.

Zito observed that drama is an untapped source for community communication and conversation.

Andy Gordon recounted his visit to room 012 Eggers - the Marguerite Fisher room that Diane Murphy had spoken about previously. He described it as an untapped treasure. Syracuse University has a great history in the woman's movement of which Fisher was vital.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00