

Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual and Relationship Violence
December 8, 2017
3:00 - 5:00pm

Attendees:

Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz, co-chair	Suzette Melendez
Diane Lyden Murphy, co-chair	Anjana Pati
Randi Bregman	Kathryn Pataki
Katelyn Cowen	Jeffrey Pauline
Rebecca Dayton	Abby Perer
Linda Stone Fish	Randy Posner
Herman Frazier	Kelly Rodoski (for Sarah Scalese)
Tula Goenka	Sarah Solomon
Andy Gordon	Cory Wallack
Emily Durand	Barry L. Wells
Huey Hsiao	Jack Wilson (for Ashley O'Mara)
Andrew London	Ralph Zito
Bobby Maldonado	Denise Dowdall, scribe

Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz introduced Kelly Rodoski from News Services, who will work with Sarah Scalese to provide coverage on the activities of the Task Force.

Rebecca Dayton gave an update on a proposal for Syracuse University to host a conference on sexual assault issues. The conference proposal is tabled for now but will be reconsidered next year.

Barry L. Wells announced that the University has entered into an agreement with Don McPherson to consult on programming relating to sexual relationships and healthy masculinity.

Diane Lyden Murphy reported on the recent University Senate meeting in which the Agenda Committee was assigned to study and appraise our sexual harassment policy, particularly related to relationships with students. The Task Force would like to contribute to the process. Abby Perer reviewed the policy approval process and said it will include relevant stakeholders.

Perer gave an update on current legal issues. The John Doe suit is still ongoing; we have moved to have the court dismiss it. If dismissed it will be publicized; if not dismissed the case will go to discovery.

Reed Kantrowitz gave an update on the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, which is working overtime to manage as many cases as they can before end of semester

Emily Durand gave an update on plans for Its On Us for spring.

Emily Durand and Angie Pati led the group in discussion of a Cosmopolitan magazine article and book regarding sexual assault at Syracuse University, which was also covered in the local newspaper.

Members felt that the newspaper sensationalized the piece, particularly in the headlines, and that the book treated an important topic flippantly.

There was discussion about sexual behavior on campus and the attitudes of students, as well as what the University is doing or could do to educate students, offer alternatives to party atmosphere, and support students who are already making healthier choices.

There was lively discussion of mental health and counseling resources for students, as well as the policy on sharing of statistics about the number of students effected by sexual assault. Within the group, there was disagreement about the perception of mental health services on campus being inconsistent with the statistics.

The Task Force members felt strongly that they need complete data about rape and sexual abuse on campus to fulfill their mission and that should be communicated to the Chancellor so that professional staff know that they can share information with this confidential body.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 am