

Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual and Relationship Violence
December 9, 2016
1:30 – 3:30 pm

Attendees:

Rebecca Reed Kantrowitz, co-chair	Joyce LaLonde
Joanna Masingila, co-chair	Lynn Levey
Randi Bregman	Bobby Maldonado
Katelyn Cowen	Suzette Melendez
Rebecca Dayton	Jeffrey Pauline
Herman Frazier	Abby Perer
Tula Goenka	Pam Peter
Andy Gordon	Amy Quichiz
Daria Grineva	Sarah Solomon
Huey Hsiao	Cory Wallack
Rachel Johnson	Barry L. Wells
Sheila Johnson-Willis	Samantha Skaller, ex-officio

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

Minutes from the October meeting were approved unanimously.

Susan Pasco, associate director of the Counseling Center, presented on ACHA, the American College Health Association, and her participation in a task force focused on sexual and relationship violence.

The ACHA task force has concluded that all campuses must address behaviors surrounding sexual and relationship violence, which is complicated and without a quick solution. The ACHA task force believes that the use of a public health framework is needed, emphasizing physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both victim/survivors and providers and which is sensitive and responsive to concerns of marginalized populations while also recognizing that diversity of cultures influences participants' interpretation of messaging.

To that end, the ACHA task force has created a toolkit which will assist campuses in navigating the environment around sexual and relationship violence including: development, management, and sustainability of programs addressing sexual and relationship violence; navigating the complexities of ever-changing and high volume of information; providing advocacy for resources; defining best practices for prevention, risk reduction, and response; giving guidance around assessment and evaluation; and supporting the creation of comprehensive and trauma-informed systems for addressing and responding to sexual and relationship violence

Pasco said that Syracuse University is ahead of most campuses around the country in education, prevention, and response in accordance with the ACHA guidelines.

Pam Peter and Katelyn Cowen led a discussion on the climate assessment survey with the goal of gathering reactions to the results which will be shared with the Climate Assessment Planning Committee, and to help prepare for another climate survey in two years which is required by Enough of Enough legislation. Some observations:

- Many of the student respondents may be student leaders who are already aware of resources, which may indicate that our campus has a greater understanding of resources than really exists.
- Low student response rates may reflect a lack of confidence and trust. We need to convince students they will be taken seriously and that things can change.
- Faculty and staff need to reach out to students more; get involved; attend events; show support of student endeavors.
- We need to educate faculty and staff on how to talk with students who've experience assault, without being too academic in our approach. Sometimes students just need to talk about what happened, and the survey responses show that they are more likely to seek a friend or confidante rather than officially report.
- We should educate students on what a healthy relationship looks like.
- Students need a safe space where they can talk.
- The new Arch wellness center will have comfortable spaces, more peer educators, and "mind spa" space.
- When the Arch opens, we should invite groups to do events there.
- We don't need more supports for students, we need to improve what we have.
- For the next survey, we should try to include students that have recently left SU.
- What is the goal of the surveys? We should establish targets and use them to measure social change.

Abby Perer gave an update on the OCR investigation. We provided information to them in October but have not received any response. The OCR had previously expressed a desire to come to campus but gave no date. We believe that the heavy load of cases, as well as the election of Donald Trump is having an effect. We do not know what the status of the OCR will be in the new administration.

Task Force Committees need to be populated. We will send out the charge for each committee and ask members to select one on which to serve.

Meeting adjourned at 3:31pm