

Sexual Misconduct Policy Task Force

1/31/18

Meeting Minute Summary

Urge members to talk to their friends, classmates, student groups, etc. to tell them about the importance of the committee and to tell people what we are doing.

Committee could table in Wilson Commons or use the chalk board to share the work we are doing. Also, SBAC is doing social media campaign in April for Equal Pay Day so they can share posts from committee about the recommendations we are making, and for example, use #studenttaskforce

One member wonders if by continuing to work as a committee (after we make recommendations then sharing those) if that is expanding upon our original mission of the task force to just review student policies.

Counterpoint: Others in group think that it would be good to include student input and to tell them what we are recommending so that they have more trust in the administration and feel they are being listened to. Also, since the task force was created out of student government, if we don't inform them of what the committee recommends then we would not be helping the student body as we should be.

Possible idea to e-mail student body to tell them what we are doing and what we recommend along with including the link to the meeting transcripts and meeting minute summaries. Or we could table in Wilson Commons and share a flyer or business card with e-mail of one designated task force member who can answer questions and put the transcripts/ summaries link on material to share with students. Also, want to publicize to students that if they want to bring something to the task force's attention, if there is something that they feel is wrong with the policies, or if they have something they feel is really important that they don't feel we went over well then they can send it to us.

Idea was suggested for committee to focus on task force mission and continue that work to propose recommendations to the President, and then have members who want to share more information about broader sexual misconduct issues with student body by tabling in Wilson Commons and or using social media.

--Group took time to meet in small groups to discuss survey and another group will discuss interview logistics.

Survey group discussed:

Group came up with a list of questions (put in first person narratives). Copies were printed for group to review. Group needs to read through list and then send changes to Kate- send by Friday, 2/2. After edits are sent to Kate the survey will be inputted into REDCap that is run by U of R Medical Center, then committee will need to test survey multiple times to make sure it is working well. Someone will put the questions in a Google doc so that everyone can work on editing the survey/ adding their comments. Look for questions with leading language (correct if any) and specifically look at the last question to explain that we will conduct interviews of people who want to be interviewed. We will follow up with those who say they would like to be interviewed.

Committee would like to ask for person's socio-demographics at the end of the survey so that it doesn't make them answer the questions differently than it may if they know upfront that the survey is asking for their personal information.

Group would like the survey to stay open until the interviews are complete so they are both out at the same time.

Keep in mind that you may get some false results (sample bias, sample error). A person who is angry will be able to take the survey as many times as they want and you cannot rule out duplicate responses. It is set up for privacy so it de-identifies respondents and does not tracking IP addresses, but you can sometimes figure out if the same person is taking multiple surveys by looking at the timestamps of each and seeing if they use the same natural language.

Want to use as many ways as possible to tell people about the survey such as Twitter, tabling, posters around campus, SA government list serv, Dean Runner's office (e-mail students), spreading info through individual student groups, Greek Life, Health Promotion office, sports teams, etc.

Interview group discussed:

Interview questions will be similar to survey questions.

Discussed possible place(s) to hold interviews: Simon School, Interfaith Chapel, Warner School, or SBA Center. Idea to hold interviews in 2 different spaces at same time so that more people can be interviewed at once (to make process more efficient).

Want to get feedback from Public Safety Chief Mark Fischer on how to conduct an interview around this issue with sensitivity. Interviewers would also like to be trained by Restore before they conduct interviews to increase their sensitivity.

Group will create core questions and prepare follow-up questions that go into more detail about the process in case an interviewee has a lot to say. The follow-up questions can also be asked if a person doesn't answer some questions with much detail. Group will meet at a time different than our regular meetings to settle on questions they will ask. Group will work on a flow chart that shows steps of the process to use during interviews if needed. Want someone who is skilled in sexual misconduct to look over the questions to make sure they are appropriate and will yield information we are looking for. One member will ask Restore to review the final questions before interviews are conducted.

Will tell interviewees they can bring someone with them to support them if they want. Will ask Restore staff person to be on call when interviews are being conducted in case someone is triggered during their interview, but won't ask them to be at the interviews. Interviewees do not have to talk about the incident and will not be asked specific questions about what happened, and interviewers will tell people that they are only interested in their experience with the policies and processes at the University (Title IX Office, conduct hearing, etc.).

Will have 2 people doing the interviews in each room. Will set longer time periods for interviews so they do not rush interviewee, but will tell people they can leave the interview whenever they want. Will set longer times also to allow time for one person to leave and the next interviewee to arrive so they do not cross paths. Will give the names and photos of committee members who will conduct interviews to people beforehand so they know who will be interviewing them.

Moving forward: Group will meet every week until recommendations are made and can cancel meetings if they are not needed. Group liked splitting up into sub-discussion groups today, felt it was more productive. Agreed we can do that again if needed at future meetings to discuss policies.