

**Sexual Misconduct Task Force**  
**Meeting Minutes Summary**  
**3/21/18**

Task Force discussed feedback they received over Spring break from the respondent verification group on the final draft recommendations (completed at 3/7 meeting).

Respondent verification group's feedback/ responses to draft recommendations:

- Would not recommend that you use the word “would” when referring to mandatory perpetration training – but “might” or may unless you have evidence-informed or based information that such a program has those results.
- Think the section of student/supervisor/TA section be adapted to include not only past and current relationships, but notes reflect group was concerned about relationships that develop during a class.
- Amnesty- thinks amnesty is appropriate, but concerned with the current wording that the University “will not act on information” about drug or alcohol use. This could create a bad situation where the University doesn't support a student who is dealing with an issue with alcohol/other drugs. A graphic example- a woman consumes half a bottle of liquor, passes out, and is raped. Certainly don't want her to get in trouble for violating the alcohol policy because she made a report, nor want her to think that she is somehow at fault for being raped. But concerned that she almost drank herself to death. Important the University is able to follow up with her and make sure she is connected with the resources and support to minimize the risk of her using alcohol in that way again. Worried the policy is preventing the University from acting on the information about her drinking and getting her support. Recommend changing the language to mirror the current medical amnesty policy, which states that the individual will not be charged with a violation if they meet with a University staff member to discuss the incident and complete any educational sanctions required to help the student make safer, more responsible decisions with alcohol or other drugs. That clarifies that a claimant will not get in trouble for making a report while also ensuring that we are getting support to the students most at-risk for alcohol and other drug issues.
- Complicity- have a lot of questions about #2 under complicity. Should be articulated clearly when a group is found in violation for something that happens during their event.
- Training- Does the University have the capacity to offer a 1-2 credit class that is required for all students? The primary writing requirement works because most faculty members are qualified to teach a writing course in an area in which they are subject matter experts. Much more thought would need to go into who is qualified to teach a course on sexual misconduct for 1300 undergraduates a year.
- Amnesty- The medical amnesty policy as stated in the student sexual misconduct policy utilizes language required by NYS Education Law Article 129-B §6442(1) “Policy for alcohol and/or drug amnesty”. The law requires the exact language included in the policy. I'm afraid we don't have much leeway here.
- Complicity- The University of Connecticut's definition of complicity is more permissive than our current definition. If we utilized their language as proposed we would not be able to hold individual accountable for being present in the room when a violation of the policy has occurred, we would have to prove that there is a specific act they took to aid, facilitate, promote or encourage the behavior. This would limit our ability to hold someone accountable, is this what you were wanting to happen?

- Trainings- We agree that a mandatory course for first year students would be a very useful addition to orient students to University life; however, we think it should be expanded beyond the topic of sexual misconduct to include other issues critical to ensuring a safe and healthy culture on our campus. A few topics could include discussions around topics of diversity (ability, race, gender, implicit bias, etc.) mental and physical health, academic support and time management.
- Intimate Relationships- Requires quite a bit more thought. To who is the relationship disclosed? For what purpose? What are the recommended steps after a disclosure? Who will be responsible for oversight of this process? Are there consequences for not disclosing it? What is a "relationship"?

More detailed feedback from the Title IX Office can be read in the 4-page response document they submitted to the Task Force- the last four bullet points in this section were the most useful feedback for the group from the Title IX Office, so are listed above.

Group considered and discussed these thoughts/ suggestions. Incorporated some of the feedback into the draft recommendations.

**Group voted on and set final recommendations- see separate document that was submitted to President Feldman's Office. Document located on Task Force meeting website- titled "Recommendations of the Students Association Task Force to Review Sexual Misconduct Policy".**

Updates on offices that work on sexual misconduct processes:

Title IX Office website is on hold and will be updated soon as deadline to update orientation materials related to Title IX issues is due in the next two weeks.

One group member, who also works with the communications department on sexual misconduct resource materials, asked on behalf of that group if campus should continue updating and printing the "Healthy Relationships" and "Are You a Victim of Sexual Assault" brochures for the student body. Group thinks wording for the second brochure should be toned down/ changed. Group thinks both should continue to be updated and printed. Another question on behalf of communications- would it be beneficial for the Title IX Office to have a 30-page booklet, like Yale has, that gives more in-depth information about sexual misconduct and the various resources they can utilize. Group thinks it is a good idea. Wants brochure to be designed so it encourages students to keep the information in case it is needed in the future.

Thoughts about sharing recommendations with student body:

Jordan will send them out to students next week and include the link for people to take the survey. Then after those are shared, group will set up a meeting with President Feldman to follow up on our recommendations to go over them and answer any questions he may have.

Jordan and Becca update the student senate every week on the progress of the Task Force. They will update them at their upcoming meeting next Monday on the final recommendations and tell them they will be sent out to the student body the next day, Tuesday, 3/27, as well as President Feldman. Group is seeking senate's endorsement of recommendations at that senate meeting.

Group will ask the President to give them a timeline of when they will tell the group that they are working on reviewing the recommendations and or will implement some or all. Will give suggestion that

at least once a month over the next school year that he have standing meetings with the new Student Association (SA) President and Vice President, the Student Life Executive Director, Chair of UR SEGWay, and It's on Us Committee to go over progress of making policy changes, and to continue working with SA on this issue. Will ask in recommendations for an initial response to the recommendations in two weeks be sent to all students and for the creation of an action plan to tell students what will happen with the recommendations by the end of April.

E-mail to President Feldman will be copied to the Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees, all undergraduate deans, and Eastman SA President (group is seeking his endorsement also).

Timeline moving forward:

Survey will be open until April 10<sup>th</sup> (on April 3<sup>rd</sup> reminder will be sent out and can send a final e-mail say it is going to close the day before). Will ask Campus Times if they will publish that the survey is out and class councils to do so as well.

Interviewers will receive training before they conduct interviews- will ask Willow and Resolve soon to give the interview group information, then will conduct interviews after that. Have rooms reserved in Simon School and in Warner School. Sub-group will meet this weekend to discuss moving forward, setting dates to do interviews, etc. Will put up posters on campus and table midway through survey collection to tell students about it (if we get a lot of people to take the surveys when it first opens we can play it by ear if we need to table), and will also post on SA social media page.

Group will meet as needed going forward to complete the rest of our tasks. Dates TBD. Will aim to make final process/ procedure recommendations by the end of April.