

President's Working Group on Sexual Assault and Harassment

Meeting Summary

5:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Members Present: Cynthia Chand, Emma Coddington, Truman Collins, Jim Ferraris, Lloyd Fobi, David Friedman, Kristen Grainger, Nichola Greenblatt, Jenna Harper, Melissa Buis Michaux, Michele Roland-Schwartz, Jerome Sader, Jackie Sandmeyer, Celine Sannes-Pond, Sophie Siegrist, Jeff Staples, Colin Starr, Rachel Kinsman Steck, Margaret Trout, Emily Trussell, Honey Wilson

Members Absent: Leah Chubb, Molly Hawkins, Manny Rodriguez

Guests: David Douglass, Cynthia Stinson, Ross Stout

This meeting was open to the campus community and the public as we continued our overview and discussion of current Title IX policies, programs and practices. There was also a special briefing on the recent groping incidents on and off campus.

Before the presentations began, **Kristen Grainger**, VP & Executive Assistant to President Thorsett introduced the S.A.R.A. representatives who were available in case anyone wished to meet with them while the current sensitive topics were discussed at a more in depth level.

Jim Ferraris, Deputy Chief of Police, Salem Police Department and **Jeff Staples**, Detective, Salem Police Department gave an overview of how the Salem PD is responding to the proper incidences on and off campus. They have asked their officers to patrol the affected areas as often as possible and wanted us to know that these incidents are a priority to them. At this time they believe there may be multiple suspects involved. One suspect had been arrested at the time of our meeting and more interviewing would be taking place Wednesday, January 29th. So far, there is no evidence that the perpetrators have been armed. The victims are females and range from age 15-56. Someone asked if the police thought the person who assaulted a female in her dorm room could be one of the suspects and they did not think so.

Ross Stout, Director of Campus Safety presented on "[Is Willamette a Safe Place?](#)" which included maps with dates and locations of groping incidents involving Willamette University students provided by Campus Safety and one from the Salem PD. A question was asked if there was any room for community members to be more proactive in trying to catch the groper. A student on the working group said that a group of men on campus were interested in volunteering time for Willamette Watch so there would be more eyes on the grounds. Ross stated that Campus Safety is open to that and to please let them know to stop by and get trained and scheduled.

The Blue Light phone agenda has been pushed forward and two new phones have been authorized to be installed within 30-60 days and new additional phones will be installed throughout campus over time. A campus map where those phones are and will be located was presented as well. A question was raised about how to strategize getting to a blue phone and getting to safety. There was concern that education needs to be done on blue light use.

A suggestion was made regarding the effectiveness of a security camera being a deterrent in Jackson Plaza. Another concern raised was that card access now being limited to residence halls and maybe we need to reconsider that access due to safety concerns.

In re: to the Baxter Hall incident, Rich Dennis is in the process of interviewing all Baxter Hall men.

Cynthia Stinson has made contact with the victims of the groping incidents and is still waiting to connect with one of them.

Someone asked if Campus Safety could assist in escorting people to their cars in the event they get out of a late class. Ross Stout said that Campus Safety is available 24/7 to assist anyone getting to their cars safely or, in the case of students, getting them to their homes safely. Another question came up about whether more patrols would be done around women's living areas, primarily sororities. Campus Safety stated that they would have the officers alter their routines around women's living areas.

Ross announced that there would be a Community Safety Meeting Thursday, January 30, 2014 4:30-5:30 p.m. in Alumni Lounge, 3rd floor of the UC. He also informed the working group that the campus safety email alerts would continue.

Someone asked if there would be a distribution of pepper spray. Ross said that Campus Safety would be distributing free whistles beginning the week of February 3, 2014. A Personal Defense Class is being offered for free to all community members on Wednesday 1/29 at 6:30 in Sparks.

David Douglass, Dean of Campus Life was there to answer questions.

Student Sexual Misconduct Process, Continued: Sanctions and Appeals:

Cynthia Stinson, Director of Educational Equity Assurance and Deputy Title IX Coordinator

How to work with Willamette faculty- need a venue so people can come forward to express what they wish had gone differently. This is in reference to ensuring a better feedback loop so

“we” can be in better dialogue with faculty about what is happening (so they aren’t perpetuating myths) and how they would like things to be different.

Cynthia shared that she hopes to have a way to get meaningful (considerations of timing, re-traumatization etc. need to be made) feedback from students who’s cases have gone through the system as it is now. She hasn’t created anything yet, but welcomes both ideas about how and when to do that with case participants and also welcomes input from anyone who wants to provide feedback regarding their own experience or suggestions about how to make it better.

Increasing helpfulness in disclosing related to the review of survey data and the high percentage of students who had a negative reaction (like the scenario answered where over half thought the victim was partially responsible) to a disclosure to friends. How do we increase the information that other students (and staff and faculty) have available in order to actually be helpful to students who disclose vs. making them feel responsible and or ashamed and guilty?

Overview and analysis of student survey and campus focus group results:
Kristen Grainger

http://www.willamette.edu/about/leadership/president/pwgsah/pdf/memo_titleix_training_obligations.pdf

Nichola Greenblatt: feels like people don’t know what assault is- what language or threats constitute assault.

Celine Sannes-Pond: feels that we need to educate about what assault is.

Some people may not actually believe it’s happening when it is happening to themselves, but would recognize it if a friend told them about a situation. It may be hard to recognize assault when you most likely have a relationship with that person.

Sex Signals:

First Year students- focus is on someone you “just meet”, not someone you’re in a current relationship with. Maybe it would be better to approach the information within smaller groups of students- like College Colloquium. Those groups develop very close bonds.

Emma: negative social consequences: don’t want friends to know/don’t want to identify the perpetrator.

KG: students think based on social consequences.

Truman Collins: Change education method. People are coming to Willamette from high school. There may be a lack of empathy re: how each other feels. Sometimes is easier to hear the rules vs. being able to apply it.

As a young Willamette student himself, Truman still recalls when a female student shared her

story with his small group. He said that the personal, individual communication stuck with him and allowed him to feel empathetic.

Margaret Trout, Director, Bishop Wellness Center

When a student comes in for emergency contraception they are asked if the incident of unprotected sex was consensual. Supports are offered as appropriate.

David Friedman, Law: many students are coming into the law school either directly from college or having been out of school for a long time. First year law classes- dealing with rape- can be a trigger for students once the subject is raised.

[http://www.willamette.edu/about/leadership/president/pwgsah/pdf/pwgsah_jan_presentati
on.pdf](http://www.willamette.edu/about/leadership/president/pwgsah/pdf/pwgsah_jan_presentati
on.pdf)

Kristen Grainger thanked all community members who were in attendance and adjourned the meeting.