

President's Working Group on Sexual Assault and Harassment

**Introductions to Title IX, Clery Act, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and
Campus and Community Supports
Meeting Summary
5:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2013**

Members Present: Cynthia Chand, Leah Chubb, Truman Collins, Jim Ferraris, David Friedman, Kristen Grainger, Nichola Greenblatt, Jenna Harper, Molly Hawkins, Melissa Buis Michaux, Manny Rodriguez, Michele Roland-Schwartz, Jerome Sader, Celine Sannes-Pond, Sophia Siegrist, Jeff Staples, Colin Starr, Rachel Kinsman Steck, Margaret Trout, Emily Trussell, Honey Wilson

Members Absent: Emma Coddington, Lloyd Fobi

Guests: Cynthia Stinson, Ross Stout, Don Thompson, Liz Trayner

WELCOME, GENERAL UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kristen Grainger called the meeting to order and welcomed Willamette community members- students, alumni, faculty and staff- in attendance. Kristen gave an update on the status of the student survey and campus focus groups. At the time of the meeting, there had already been 760 responses to the student survey; 35% men and 65% women. Student focus groups are getting underway and faculty and staff focus groups will be completed by Thanksgiving, 2013. Information from the survey and focus groups will give a sense of the campus climate and will help inform what we do well and what we can do better.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO FEDERAL MANDATES: TITLE IX, CLEARY ACT & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT:

These federal mandates are Willamette's legal obligations as regards to education/prevention, supporting survivors and holding wrongdoers accountable. Kristen began by giving an overview of the paradigm shift of Title IX nationally in the Dear Colleague letter of April 2011 which articulated new interpretations and expectations and shifted institutions' primary Title IX focus to sexual misconduct response. Willamette's Title IX

coordinating committee has been responding to the Dear Colleague letter since 2011, which resulted in significant policy revisions and increased visibility of resources and supports, that to the campus community, may have seemed instead to be a response to the events of spring 2013. Title IX requirements were reviewed and explained that publicized outcomes of enforcement actions taken at other institutions by the U.S. Dept. of Ed/Office of Civil Rights are subjective according to the circumstances and policies at the institution in question and, while informative, are not necessarily binding legal mandates on all colleges and universities. Reporting requirements under the Clery Act were shared. The SARA's had consulted with Campus Safety as to whether Willamette should include certain reported crimes in the Collegian. Margaret Trout said that crimes reported to Campus Safety are included in the Campus Safety Reports section of the Collegian as long as identifying factors would be removed and if it is done in a thoughtful way. Kristen continued by covering the federal mandates of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA); Dear Colleague Letter #2 (April 2013) which includes additional interpretation of Title IX by prohibiting retaliation, additional challenges and the approach following the Post-Dear Colleague, April 2011. PDF's as well as slides are available are found under the [October 15, 2013](#) meeting section of the President's Working Group on Sexual Assault and Harassment section on the Office of the President page on Willamette's web site.

CAMPUS SUPPORTS FOR SURVIVORS:

Margaret Trout demonstrated how to navigate our www.willamette.edu/sexualmisconduct web page and handed out a Policy and Procedure Review Tool outlining Supports for Survivors and which mandate is covered under each point.

Cynthia Chand, President, Sexual Assault Response Allies (SARA's) founded in 2007. SARA's is private, but not confidential, completely student-run by CLA students and they hope to include students from Willamette's other schools as well. They have hired 14 new SARA's which will be publicized on campus and plan to have a bigger physical appearance on campus. Most student contact is generated through referrals, but the telephone hotline, office hours in the Women's Resource Center, and online chat via the SARA web page, are also avenues to support. Slides containing her [presentation](#) are on the meeting section of the President's Working Group on Sexual Assault and Harassment section on the Office of the President page on Willamette's web site.

Don Thomson, Director of Counseling Services at Bishop Wellness Center here at Willamette, spoke about the services we provide for victims. We provide confidential support and there are no fees for sexual assault support. Survivors use Counseling Services to process the event, which may or may not result in the survivor becoming ready to report the incident.

Margaret went over the medical care options that are provided by Salem Hospital and our Student Health Services. Students can access care at either site free of charge. Both Salem Hospital and Bishop offer exams for injury, medications for possible sexually transmitted infection exposure, and medications to prevent pregnancy. Salem Hospital offers forensic

evidence collections as well. Students do not need to report to law enforcement to access these services.

Liz Trayner, Director of Residence Life, spoke about her role in regards to Title IX as it applies to Residence Life and Academic Supports. They guide the conduct process by assigning Process Advisors- there have been 65 people trained as advisors. Someone is on call 24/7 to assist in providing an immediate safe space, help with the moving process, filing a report or placing a restricted contact order. Community Mentors (RA's) receive training to be proactive vs. reactive.

Cynthia Stinson, Deputy Title IX Coordinator and Director of Educational Equity Assurance, introduced herself and her background before coming to Willamette and talked a bit about her role at Willamette now.

Ross Stout, Director of Campus Safety, explained what services they offer for students- taking them to the hospital or offering to call off-campus community supports and to make sure that they feel safe on campus. A student brought up that the Blue Light phones on campus are desired and have importance to students and staff. They wanted to know how installation was prioritized in the budget/building plans and how to know where they are all located on campus.

WILLAMETTE'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTS IN SALEM:

Emily Trussell from Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service serves all of Marion County. Mid-Valley accepts walk-ins and offers free and confidential referral services. They have the only safe house shelter which is often full. If they are full, people will still be welcomed, although it might be the floor or a couch and they are given that information before they come. Basic needs are provided and those in need can stay as long as needed. They have a staff of 12 who are advocates, not counselors and include an LGBTQ advocate, bilingual, bicultural staff who provide outreach to rural communities, a youth advocate for children coming in and an outstation at the DHS office. Emily was asked how she has perceived changes or trends over time at Willamette. She said that there is a lot of energy around a specific event, but then when those specific students graduate or a faculty leaves then the activity around the event goes away. She would like to see more involvement from Athletics- that athletes are more likely to listen to their coaches and peers. The basketball coach has asked her to come speak. Ross Stout asked if there were stable funding streams. Emily said that there is never enough funding. They get federal and state grants, public support/donations and that they are not adequately funded where they should be for our level of need. Mid-Valley provides education to the community and would like to collaborate with Willamette's Men Against Violence Group (MAVG).

Molly Hawkins from the Crime Victims Assistance, Marion County District Attorney's Office relayed that an advocate is always available to give victims their options to make an informed decision. Advocates from this office area offered when students present to Salem Hospital Emergency Department and they provide clothing and follow-up call, during a crisis a victim

does not always hear all of the information or resources provided. People can speak to them anonymously and if they want to report it later that is ok. They are also available to meet with a victim on Willamette's campus.

Jim Ferraris, Deputy Chief of Police from the Salem Police Department, oversees all criminal investigations.

Jeff Staples, Detective from the Salem Police Department, investigates crimes, specifically sexual assaults. He explained that sexual assault is a significant issue in our Salem community. There are typically 160 cases each year. Their #1 priority is for sexual assault victims to survive. They focus on preservation of evidence to prevent re-offense and re-victimization. Sometimes an offender moves to a new school and if they are not stopped, they will reoffend. Best practice is to develop an understanding between the Salem PD vs. the Willamette campus. We need to do whatever we can to get to the offender before anyone else gets hurt instead of "if someone else comes forward, then I will" mentality. Salem PD would like to have the opportunity to listen to and help Willamette University. Someone asked if Willamette does a conduct review upon admission or transfer. The information is being obtained so it can be presented at the November 19, 2013 meeting.

Q & A, NEXT STEPS, WRAP-UP & ADJOURN:

A reminder of what will be covered at the November meeting was given.

NEXT MEETING IS:

Alumni Lounge, 3rd floor, Putnam University Center 5:30-7:30pm

November 19, 2013: Prevention and Education, Campus Judicial Process

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