

President's Commission on the Status of Women
Minutes
11/18/14

Submitted by: Jessica Dutille

Present: Gail Carr, Jessica Dutille (Chair), Chantalle Forgues, Sara Grady, Anne Jung-Mathews, Mary Beth Ray, Alice Staples, Jenny Tyniec,

Guests: Jeff Furlone, Janette Wiggett

Agenda:

1. Sexual Assault Policy
2. Update on Young Women's Conference
2. American Council for Education- National Initiative for Work Life Balance
3. Work Groups

Jess welcomed everyone. Mentioned meeting with Steph and President Steen- Fox rep and Operating Staff Rep.

Introductions.

1. Sexual Assault Policy

Jeff Furlone and Janette Wiggett's presentation.

The Title IX presentation is given to all first year seminar classes.

Medical Support:

- Working with Sexual Assault Resource Team and Voices Against Violence, ensuring medical assistance.
- Services on campus: Health Services and Spereare Memorial Hospital.

Emotional Support:

- Counseling Center, Health Services and Campus ministry on campus
- Voices Against Violence off campus- Voices Against Violence is part of the protocol.

Chantalle noted that the partnership with Voices Against Violence is a big and welcomed change.

A copy of the MOU with Voices Against Violence was passed around. Making Voices Against Violence primary referral was the recommendation of the task force from 2011. Frame of reference is students, faculty and staff.

PSU is part of a consortium of campuses discussing sexual assault.

Reporting Support:

-Jeff Furlone and Janette Wiggett

Sexual Assault Policy is posted online.

The definition of consent was updated in response to affirmative consent and the yes means yes campaign.

Modifications to the official reporting options have been made. There is a team of six who have received additional training for Title IX reporting, who serve on panels for hearings.

There is now an opportunity for informal resolution if the respondent takes responsibility. The case then moves forward to sanctioning. Otherwise, there would be an official hearing. The panel then makes recommendations for sanctioning.

Chantalle noted that this is a very positive change.

Sanctioning for sexual assault case includes suspension and expulsion.

Anne asked for clarification of suspension and expulsion.

Jeff explained that there is a chance of coming back to campus with a suspension, but that is not the case with expulsion.

Jess asked if the primary way of connecting with students in regards to Title IX and if this information is given to parents in anyway.

Jeff explained that they met with Wendy Palmquist and was able to have a presence in first year seminar. Barb McCahan has helped with gaining feedback from students in first year seminar. Jeff and Janette are looking at communicating to students through orientation. Jeff mentioned that no one at PSU has stood in the way of moving the policy forward.

Alice asked about prevention in terms of sexual assault.

Janette explained that when Delila Smith left her position at the SAGE Center, the team evaluated how the center could support sexual assault issues. There will now be two coordinators at the SAGE Center. The position that hasn't been filled yet will focus on violence against women, sexual assault issues and leading prevention events on campus.

Jeff mentioned that the SHARPP center at UNH is a great model.

PSU outreach and training is provided by Voices Against Violence.

Jess asked Jeff and Janette how the PCSW could support their work.

Jeff explained that honest feedback on a regular basis is extremely helpful.

Janette explained that the University of Virginia has great information available of faculty

and staff training.

Current Title IX Team: Elaine Doell, Kim Bownes, Mark Legacy, Frank Coochiarella, Janette Wiggett, and Jeff Furlone.

Chantalle noted that the hearing panel was a great change to procedures. The level of transparency is also a welcomed change. The sanctions are more effective. The previous model included more educational sanctions. Chantalle stressed that the new policy is a big improvement.

2. Update on Young Women's Conference

Jess gave an update on the Young Women's Conference. It was a very powerful day for everyone involved. The committee met afterwards and decided that they would like to offer the conference on an annual basis.

Mary Beth mentioned that a few middle school girls attended and had very positive experiences. She suggested that we consider extending the opportunity to middle school girls.

Jess agreed and noted that the committee also felt that would be important.

Anne announced that the next YWC will be on October 24th, 2015. Anne also noted that Stephanie Halter talked about getting PSU students more involved.

Jess explained that her students had very positive experience presenting the body image workshop. She also noted that we gained very positive feedback from the youth participants through the surveys. Many of the girls mentioned that they learned that they are beautiful.

Mary Beth joined the YWC committee.

3. American Council for Education- National Initiative for Work Life Balance

Jess spoke about the meeting that she and Stephanie Halter had with President Steen. President Steen was excited to hear about our work group, which has formed around work life balance. President Steen signed onto the National Initiative for Work Life Balance through American Council for Education (ACE).

President Steen mentioned that she would like to see representation from the community, as well as from the operating staff. Fox from Circle Program will be joining the committee next month. We are looking for an operating staff representative.

Next meeting: **December 9th in Lamson 202.** It will be a work group meeting