

York University
Sexual Assault Awareness, Prevention, and Response Policy Working Group
Meeting Notes

Date: Friday, January 29, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Location: 956 Kaneff Tower

Attendance: Polly MacFarlane, Melissa Belisle, Noël Badiou, Elana Shugar, Rob Castle, Aldo Altomare, Deb Hansen

Regrets: Liisa Stephenson, Jessica Thyriar, Catherine Salole, Christine Silversides, Prakash Amarasooriya, Representative CWTP, Nusrat Sharmin Huq

Updates

- With the heightened prominence of discussions of sexual violence occurring provincially we have been asked to move the policy development schedule up.
- We have been building the foundation for some time through the Working Group and community consultations and we felt we were well positioned to draft a policy.
- Pending the Board of Governors approval, the Working Group will continue with its process and the development of related procedures.

Draft Policy Development Process

- VPFA took the lead on drafting the policy. R. Castle acknowledges and thanked E. Shugar for laying the groundwork for the draft policy.
- Over the last month R. Castle and E. Shugar have been meeting with Working Group members to review the draft with them and incorporate suggestions.
- Overall there was support for the draft from Working Group members.
- The draft is being finalized and will be presented to the Board Governance and Human Resources Committee, the Executive Committee and then the Board of Governors.

Draft Policy Review

- During consultation with Working Group members suggestions were incorporated.
 - Highlighting the increased vulnerabilities that individuals face based on their identity or perceived identity was incorporated in the Preamble.
 - Section 3 was revised to be consistent with the order of processes. It was also revised to consistently reference due process.
 - The importance of universities educating around the issue of consent was suggested. After reviewing, it was felt to have been highlighted in Section 4 of the policy in reference to education initiatives.
 - In the consultations the order of the sections was discussed. It was decided that in order to give prominence to the policy statements that the Scope and Definitions would be positioned below.
 - Discussion took place around how the procedures and resources would provide for a more extensive discussion of sexual violence including additional definition such as sexual violence, victim blaming, and survivor. It may also provide the opportunity to address how sexual assault relates to other forms of discrimination and violence.

Expanding Student Membership

- R. Castle and E. Shugar met with student service groups since the last Working Group meeting. After consideration it was decided that rather than having a representative attend a Working Group meeting to give an overview as initially discussed, we feel it would enhance the process to include a few representatives as Working Group members in the next phase.

Next Meeting

- The meeting on Tuesday, February 3rd will be rescheduled.
- At the next meeting we will welcome the new members of the Working Group and review the path forward.