

Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Assault and Harassment
Meeting
November 7, 2014

Members Present: Cynthia Ward, Donna H-G, Anna Martin, Mallory Tucker, Deb Love, Marjorie Thomas, Deb Cheesebro, Chon Glover, Ginger Ambler, Fran Bradford, Dave Gilbert, David Dessler, Kiersten Boyce, Rowan Lockwood, Jodi Fisler, Susan Grover, Alex Greenspan

I. Updates

- a. The Open House for the Haven on October 24 was very well attended (273 people). Another open house is being considered for next semester. Students have started to use it. Thirteen students are currently volunteering to staff the space. There is a lot of student interest in getting involved. New volunteers are being recruited to start in January. All volunteers—current and new—will be going through more extensive training through Avalon, which meets state requirements.
- b. Panel discussion next Tuesday—reprise of successful panel held last month at the law school. Has been promoted on the WMDigest, Student Happenings, student affairs listservs, Women’s Network listserv, other communication channels.
- c. Sexual misconduct survey closes on November 17. As of yesterday, just under 31% of students have responded.
- d. Comment period for proposed Handbook changes ends today. A few comments have come in, to which Ginger responded.
- e. Subcommittee activity
 - i. Adjudication & Investigation subcommittee has met. Will convene again soon to review comments to Handbook changes.
 - ii. Campus Climate subcommittee has met. Will review data from sexual misconduct survey at its next meeting.
 - iii. Education & Prevention committee has met. Will invite Jason Simms from Athletics to a future meeting.
 - iv. Faculty & Staff Training has met. Talked about online fac/staff training, other ways to provide training that might be better received. Has asked Babs Bengston and Helen Murphy to join the subcommittee.

II. Guest: Fran Bradford

- a. Fran provided an overview of federal and state efforts regarding campus sexual violence, then discussed the structure and activities of the Governor’s Task Force on Combating Campus Sexual Violence.

III. Report from Attorney General’s Summit

- a. Several task force members attended the summit on Oct. 30-31. Good information on interview techniques, Title IX advisory boards. VCU has a practice of notifying students when sexual assaults are reported in cases where the parties are both known (as opposed to timely warning emails

that are already issued). This may be something for us to consider. How can we be more transparent and educate the community about incidents while also protecting the privacy of those involved and being sensitive to the needs of victims?

- IV. Coordinating work of subcommittees
 - a. Plan to share information at the next meeting on information-gathering activities to ensure smooth coordination.
- V. In the interest of time, discussion on the coordination of training and education was tabled until the next meeting.
- VI. Ambler adjourned the meeting at 5:31 p.m.