

Coalition on Sexual Violence Prevention

November 5, 2018

9:00am-10:30am

Minutes

Vice Presidents Opperman and Lombardi welcomed everyone to the Coalition meeting. They acknowledged an incident on North Campus that received media attention: a staff member and student witnessed an incident and actively intervened to help a student. It was a good example of a bystander intervention.

Coalition Updates

- Sexual Assault Awareness Week (SAAW) 2019
 - Stefan Antonsson, student leader, introduced himself and announced students are in the very early stages of planning the events. They would welcome input from members of the Coalition. SAAW will be in the month of April per usual.
- New Title IX investigator
 - Chantelle Cleary announced they had hired a new investigator, Nasser Siadat, who will join as a lead investigator.

Presentation

Men's programming as a part of sexual violence prevention: Overview and discussion

Tim Marchell, Director of the Skorton Center, presented an overview of men's programming and the role it plays in sexual violence prevention.

- It's important to include a focusing on men's roles in preventing sexual violence.
- There seems to be a lack of robust education and training in any sustained way for men.
- This is also part of the overall approach to ongoing bystander behavior training.
- EAAA – women's empowerment effort focuses on reducing women's risk; a comparable program to EAAA will be designed for men.

Theoria Cason, Education & Training Coordinator in the Title IX Office, described a program that was developed and implemented at Delta Upsilon (DU) fraternity this fall.

- In collaboration with the President of DU, a program that consisted of a presentation on Policy 6.4 and offered discussion about the values in the fraternity and how they align with policies and leadership was devised.
- There was an expectation that DU would have several pre-session meetings to prepare for the program.
- During the event, the fraternity members split up into six co-facilitated groups with discussion about fraternity values, masculinity, gender socialization and sexual violence prevention.

Five group facilitators are present today to offer us feedback from the experience. Comments were:

- I appreciated the organic responses from the fraternity men. We had the questions in the group and had initial comments. Then turned it back to the group about what they wanted to discuss. It sparked a great conversation.
- The group policed themselves with nonverbal communications. It was striking how many of the brothers went to private schools but never discussed “consent” in sexual relationships before they came to college.
- Being in their space and focusing on their values as a fraternity was important for discussion. They translated their values as they relate to the Title IX expectations. They talked about what they could do to change their image (note: which is not positive among the undergrad student body). They seemed willing to take the initiative to try to change.
- How many of the fraternities out there are doing something like this? Suggested that DU could be a national leader in sharing this type of education. They were very focused and had great comments and discussion.

After the program, DU leadership reported they do want to continue to engage with the Title IX office and have more sessions for their chapter.

Discussion & Questions from Coalition members

Was there any conversation at the conclusion of the discussion about next steps for the fraternity?

- We believe we left them with many things to think about and we believe they will be doing more follow up sessions. The president did send out a survey to the fraternity members at the end of the program to gather information on whether it was well-received. I believe the results will be presented to the members after the next chapter meeting.

Can we hear from our Coalition students with reactions to what was just presented? The students responded with the following comments:

- A program has to be in a proactive vs reactive. When students, especially fraternity men, feel like they are being forced to attend a punitive program, it does not work as well. Bringing in external facilitators helps. We need to think about how to have the most impact from this type of education.
- I liked hearing that the program was proactive. From the female perspective, it is interesting that the men felt like they hadn’t had discussions about consent before their first year of college.
- I use my fraternity as an incubator. I use them to explore ideas. It is hard to find the time to get people together. Getting a fraternity together for something like this is extremely difficult during the semester. It takes a lot of planning; they need to be developing this at least a year in advance. I work with athletes predominantly. In addition, although they want to participate in sessions like this, it is incredibly difficult to find the time to get them together.
- I believe we need to take the time and resources to address the culture. We need to change the mindset.

More comments from Coalition members:

- How do we get the alumni involved? We need to use all our resources through the alumni connections to get them involved. Can we engage them by involving them in the education and values clarification (legacy relationships)?
- I believe there is the desire to break the cycle of bad behavior in the fraternities. They are just apprehensive about doing the wrong thing. I believe we could use the success of DU to start some first steps.
- Collaboration is effective. We communicate to students and can help them with resource issues if they want this kind of programming.
- Speaking as a member of DU at Cornell, I can appreciate any apprehension you [the facilitators] may have had about going into DU. They have come a long way but there is much to do. It is hard work and it sounds like you did a great job in planning and designing this program. I want to stress the importance of small group discussions, as you did for this program. Although resource intensive, it sounds like it worked well and had a positive impact. This was a valuable opportunity and we should try to figure out where to go from here.
- Where is the legacy? What is the role of leadership, culture change and accountability? We need to try and figure out how we use all these strategies. The leaders need to provide the resources to keep this going. We need to change the culture as we did with hazing. There need to be consequences. I commend you all on a tremendous job.
- Perhaps we make this a ½-credit course?
- A lot of the time we see the staff facilitation of these programs as adding something on to an already busy job. Perhaps we need to look at it differently.
- I think we need to communicate to the Greek community how this will affect them positively. Possibly something you must do to continue being in the chapter, or at the University.
- Patience is key as we work and forward on these efforts. We are seeing that efforts are having positive impact.

End: 10:32am