

October 26, 2015

Members of the Dartmouth Community,

In 2010, a coalition of students and former Dartmouth President Jim Yong Kim created the Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault (SPCSA) to address the issue of gender- and power-based violence on our campus. Since then, SPCSA held community symposiums, provided opportunities for students to conduct research, and released annual recommendations based on our findings. We identify spaces for improvement in the life of a Dartmouth student by facilitating conversations between students, faculty, and staff, and sponsor two students to conduct research each year under the Elizabeth A. Hoffman Research Mini-Grant. We maintain open communication between the administration and students through our advisors to help fulfill the goals outlined by President Hanlon in the Moving Dartmouth Forward plan.

SPCSA has been a part of bringing this issue to the forefront of the College's agenda and galvanizing student efforts to prevent sexual violence, support survivors, and promote awareness of this issue. We strive to better represent the diverse and nuanced experiences of Dartmouth students. We are pleased to note these recent changes to college policy that demonstrate President Hanlon's commitment to this issue and, in many cases, are based on SPCSA recommendations over the last five years:

Improved and updated College adjudication for sexual violence:

- Instituting a new and separate process for sexual assault using an external investigator
- Revising the COS Sexual Misconduct Policy response to sexual harassment
- Outlining specific sanctions for spectrum of acts of gendered violence, including recommendation of separation from college for perpetrators of sexual assault.

Expanding preventative education and resources for student health and wellness

- Addition of Title IX Coordinator and Clery Act Compliance Officer, Heather Lindkvist
- Hiring a full time confidential counselor for survivors through Student Health Services, a Healthy Relationship and Sexual Respect specialist, and incorporating SAAP program into the Wellness Center through role of Assistant Director for Violence Prevention
- Formation of student-led WISE@D support groups and the addition of a Campus Advocate from WISE of the Upper Valley

However, there is much more work to be done. We present our 2015 Recommendations based on our research and community feedback gathered primarily at our Symposium in April 2015 and the collective expertise of five years of student leadership. Please read them and consider how we all can play a role in ending sexual violence within our community.

Signed,

The 2015-2016 Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault

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1. Require regular Responder Workshops for all First-Year Faculty Advisors, faculty members leading off-campus programs, and Safety and Security officers.¹

Why: A student's first disclosure of sexual violence is often to a faculty or staff member they know relatively well, and how the faculty or staff member responds can drastically affect the healing process of the student. In order to best support them, individuals who have significant contact with students -- such as First-Year Faculty Advisors, faculty members leading off-campus programs, and Safety and Security Officers -- should receive regular Responder Workshops. These workshops teach participants about trauma-informed care and response, which can drastically improve the healing process and health outcomes for survivors.

2. Provide financial support covering the full cost of long-term counseling and psychiatric care for student survivors of sexual violence.²

Why: Survivors of sexual violence often require care throughout the healing process, and current mental health services at the College are unable to meet these needs due to the lack of long-term care and access to treatment during interim periods and off- or leave-terms. Though the College will work with students to find long-term care off-campus, this presents a significant financial barrier for some students, and socioeconomic background should not determine a survivor's healing process.

3. Provide avenues for feedback from the reporting and responding parties about the different entities who respond to and adjudicate sexual assault, including Student Health Services, Safety and Security officers, WISE services on campus, the Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinators, the Hanover Police Department, and the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Why: These resources do not collect feedback in a consistent and meaningful way. Having a single, centralized form that allows students who have used or interacted with these services to give feedback would provide valuable information for continuing improvement of resources and processes.

4. Provide incentives for integration of Sexual Assault Peer Advocates (SAPAs) and Responder Workshops into the Greek System and Residential Housing.

Why: Students who go through the SAPA training or Responder Workshops have crucial skills to help their peers but are often underutilized. By creating a more formal process through which these trained students are integrated into Residential Housing and the Greek System, survivors of sexual violence on campus will be better able to access their peers as a resource for support.

5. Require all GLOS Societies - including Greek affinity houses, Undergraduate Societies, and Senior Societies - to have a Sexual Misconduct Policy stating that those found responsible for sexual misconduct will have their membership revoked and require all members to undergo a sexual violence prevention education program at least once during their membership.

Why: The Greek Leadership Council (GLC) has a sexual misconduct policy, but it is not applied uniformly across all GLOS-recognized societies. These societies should either adopt the GLC policy or write an analogous one that better suits the needs for their members. By doing so, they will send a strong message to campus that members who perpetrate sexual misconduct will not be welcome and will help reduce the prevalence of sexual violence on campus.

¹ Campbell, R., Ahrens, C., Sefl, T., Wasco, S., & Barnes, H. (2001). Social Reactions to Rape Victims: Healing and Hurtful Effects on Psychological and Physical Health Outcomes. *Violence and Victims*, 16(3), 287-302.

² The White House Council on Women and Girls (2014). *Rape And Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call To Action*.