

2017 Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault Recommendations

October 24, 2017

Members of the Dartmouth Community,

The Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault (SPCSA) was established in 2010 by a coalition of students and former Dartmouth President Jim Yong Kim. In an effort to fight gender and power based violence on our campus, SPCSA holds annual symposiums and town halls, provides student research opportunities with the Elizabeth A. Hoffman Research Mini-Grant, supports other organizations working against sexual violence and in support of survivors, and facilitates communication between students, faculty, staff, and the Dartmouth administration. We identify areas for improvement in the lives of Dartmouth students and release our findings to the Dartmouth community in a set of recommendations.

SPCSA strives to bring this issue to the forefront of Dartmouth's agenda and galvanize student, faculty, and staff efforts to prevent sexual violence, support survivors, and promote awareness. We aim to communicate the diverse and nuanced experiences of Dartmouth students to our community at large. Change is already underway across campus, some of it based on our previous recommendations, including:

- Institution of a new and separate process for sexual assault investigations using an external investigator
- Revision of the COS Sexual Misconduct Policy response to sexual harassment
- Specification of sanctions for spectrum of gendered violence acts, including recommendation of separation from college for perpetrators of sexual assault
- Addition of Title IX Coordinator and Clery Act Compliance Officer
- Addition of a full time confidential counselor for survivors through Student Health Services, a Healthy Relationship and Sexual Respect specialist
- Incorporation of SAAP program into Student 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
- Creation of Strengthening Our Response to Sexual Violence: The Role of Faculty and Staff workshop

While we are pleased with recent changes to college policy that demonstrate Dartmouth and President Hanlon's commitment to this issue, including goals outlined in the Moving Dartmouth Forward plan, there is still work to be done. SPCSA presents our 2017 Recommendations based on our research, community feedback from our Sixth Annual Symposium on Sexual Assault on April 14th, 2017, and findings from Mae Hardebeck's research funded by the Elizabeth A. Hoffman Mini-grant.

Signed,

2017-2018 Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault

Abhilasha Gokulan '18 Chair - Josh Davis '18 Policy Chair - Lauren Budd '18 Outreach Chair

Megan Batangan '18 - Alex Beals '18 - Manmeet Gujral '18 - Saemi Han '18 - Samantha Maltais '18 - Anisha Ariff '19 - Paulina Calcaterra '19 - Rashaad Cooper '19 - Karina Korsh '19 - Neerja Thakkar '19 - Henry Tracey '19 - Zachary Hawkins '20 - Anne Pinkney '20 - Kyra Spaulding '20

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- I. To: Office of Residential Housing;
Dartmouth IX Office
CC: Rachael Class-Giguere, Director of Undergraduate Housing;
Michael Wooten, Associate Dean of Residential Life & Director of Residential Education;
Allie O’Connell, Title IX Coordinator and Clery Act Compliance Officer

The SPCSA recommends the Office of Residential Housing and the Title IX Office work together to accommodate the housing needs of survivors and reporting persons regardless of constraints imposed by the College’s housing system.

In our Elizabeth A. Hoffman Research Grant Recipient Mae Hardebeck’s report “The Experience of Reporting Sexual Misconduct at Dartmouth College and Decision-Making in the Context of Student Mental Health,” it was discovered that Dartmouth students who have experienced sexual assault have been housed in a room next to the responding person in their case.¹ Worse, this report revealed that these students had faced resistance while requesting a change of housing. While housing continues to remain tight at Dartmouth as enrollment increases, the College nevertheless *must* accommodate survivors, regardless of whether they have filed a formal complaint with the Title IX office or the Hanover Police Department.

- II. To: Dartmouth Faculty and Staff
CC: Elizabeth Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences;
Scot Bemis, Chief Human Resources Officer

The SPCSA recommends the Dartmouth Faculty and Staff become more engaged in preventing sexual violence and gender-based violence on this campus and understand their role and responsibilities by completing all online and in-person trainings, including Strengthening Our Response to Sexual Violence: The Role of Faculty and Staff.

Because Dartmouth is a unique institution where students enjoy unparalleled ease of access to faculty and staff, it is imperative that they recognize the experiences of their students. Faculty and staff must know how to respond compassionately when students disclose information about sexual or gender-based violence. Training, such as *Strengthening Our Response to Sexual Violence: The Role of Faculty and Staff* teach “how to have a culturally responsive, trauma-informed framework for supporting those who have been affected by gender-based violence.” Workshops also teach our faculty and staff about the challenges and barriers that face survivors and reporting persons and the available advocacy, medical, and legal resources on and off campus for Dartmouth students.²

- III. To: The Frank J. Guarini Institute for International Education;
John G. Tansey, Director of the Frank J. Guarini Institute for International Education
CC: Allie O’Connell, Title IX Coordinator and Clery Act Compliance Officer;
Delaney Anderson, WISE Campus Advocate;
Liz Stahler, Counseling and Human Development;
Elizabeth Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences;
Francine A’Ness, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies;
Dennis Washburn, Frank J. Guarini Associate Dean for International Studies and Interdisciplinary Programs

¹ Hardebeck, Mae. *To Report or Not to Report: The Experience of Reporting Sexual Misconduct at Dartmouth College and Decision-Making in the Context of Student Mental Health. Report.* Dartmouth College. <https://dartmouthspcsa.wordpress.com/minigrants/2016-grant-project/>

² “Strengthening our Response to Sexual Violence.” *Dartmouth News*, news.dartmouth.edu/events/event?event=47075.

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The SPCSA recommends Faculty Directors and Teaching Assistants be required to attend Strengthening Our Response to Sexual Violence: The Role of Faculty and Staff before leading an off-campus program.

Throughout their undergraduate experience, over 55 percent of Dartmouth student participate in at least one academic off-campus program via a Language Study Abroad Program (LSA or LSA+), Dartmouth Foreign Study Program (FSP), Dartmouth Exchange Program, or Transfer Credit.³ While this provides students unique cultural and academic life-changing experiences, it also puts students into unfamiliar environments. In order to protect the safety, health, and well being of Dartmouth students, we recommend the Guarini Institute require that Faculty Directors and Teaching Assistants attend a First Responder Workshop in the “Responsibilities of Sponsors for Off-Campus Programs.”⁴

IV. To: Dartmouth Title IX;
Dartmouth Administration;
Dartmouth Student Wellness Center;
Dartmouth WISE
CC: Allie O’Connell, Title IX Coordinator and Clery Act Compliance Officer;
Liz Agosto, SPCSA Advisor and Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs;
Laura Hercod, Chief of Staff, Office of the President;
Caitlin Barthelmes, Director of Student Wellness Center;
Amanda Childress, Associate Director of Student Wellness Center;
Delaney Anderson, WISE Campus Advocate;
Mark Reed, Director of Health Services;
Department of Safety and Security;
Counseling and Human Development

The SPCSA recommends the Dartmouth Title IX Office, in conjunction with the Administration, Student Wellness Center, and WISE, provide guidance to Dartmouth students regarding the proper protocol in reporting sexual violence incidents, differentiate between each office’s role, and clarify its position as a student resource and advocate. We urge these offices to update their websites, create handbooks, distribute one-pagers, and make more presentations so that students and the larger Dartmouth community are aware of each office’s distinct purpose, goals, and duties.

From conversations with students and campus organizations, it is evident that although students receive some education on sexual violence resources, there remains confusion regarding the differences in each office’s role, especially when it comes time to report sexual violence. Similarly, in her research findings, Mae Hardebeck recommended centralizing sexual violence support information, as students are unaware of the extent of each office’s advocacy position and role in the reporting process. We believe that implementing this recommendation will enable students to have a clear roadmap and demonstrate a higher level of commitment to supporting survivors.

³ The Frank J. Guarini Institute for International Education. ocp-prod.dartmouth.edu/.

⁴“Responsibilities of Sponsors for Off-Campus Programs.” *The Frank J. Guarini Institute for International Education*. http://ocp-prod.dartmouth.edu/_customtags/ct_FileRetrieve.cfm?File_ID=03007A7C7A4F0505770C0C72070B1C04080C0014757800006E06010E71017D0B020501740373007171

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V. To: Dartmouth Student Body
CC: Undergraduate Dean's Office

The SPCSA recommends the Dartmouth student body become more proactive in preventing sexual assault by attending programs aimed at preventing and ending sexual violence (e.g. How to Help a Friend Workshops, DBI trainings, MAV facilitations, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Consent Day), talking with friends, classmates, and teammates about why preventing sexual violence in our community matters, and supporting and involving themselves in the many groups working toward preventing and ending sexual violence (e.g. SAPA, MAV, WISE@D, Sexperts). We must reaffirm our stand against sexual violence on our campus by:

- *Increasing Dartmouth Bystander Intervention (DBI) participation from 64.5%⁵ of the student body to 75%*
- *Increasing Movement Against Violence (MAV) participation for new members of Greek organizations from approximately 90%⁶ to 100%*
- *Increase student participation in Action Week from 4.64%⁷ to 10%*

It is essential that the Dartmouth Student Body recognize the pervasive and insidious culture of rape and violence at Dartmouth that specifically targets and affects many students, women, people of color, gender nonconforming individuals, and marginalized communities. As a community, we must take a stance to end this violence and promote a culture of safety and wellbeing for all students.

VI. To: The Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault
CC: Liz Agosto, SPCSA Advisor and Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs;
Laura Hercod, Chief of Staff, Office of the President;
Allie O'Connell, Title IX Coordinator and Clery Act Compliance Officer

The SPCSA vows to:

- *Make our committee more accessible to the Dartmouth community by hosting weekly office hours open to Dartmouth students, student groups, faculty, and staff*
- *Relay information between the Dartmouth administration and Dartmouth students more frequently through campus blitzes, social media, and our website*
- *Assist other Dartmouth student groups aimed at preventing and ending sexual violence by providing access to the Dartmouth administration, offering financial assistance, and acting as a liaison between these groups and the larger Dartmouth community*
- *Continue working on the previously released recommendations from 2015*

In order to issue our recommendations in good faith and fully utilize our unique position as an intermediary between students and the Dartmouth administration, we, the members of SPCSA must first hold ourselves accountable. The aforementioned promises are based on our committee's self-reflection and are a step towards becoming a more effective committee and voice for the Dartmouth community.

⁵ 2016-2017 Academic Year

⁶ 2016-2017 Academic Year

⁷ 2016-2017 Academic Year