

President's Task Force to Address Sexual Assault/Misconduct
Quarterly Report
Submitted by and Kaamilyah Abdullah-Span & Rebecca Gordon Co-chairs

The President's Task Force to Address Sexual Assault/Misconduct (PTF) was convened on October 22, 2014 with representation from each campus of the University of Illinois system. The PTF is chaired by Kaamilyah Abdullah-Span, Senior Associate Director, Title IX Coordinator of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Access at University of Illinois and Rebecca Gordon Title IX Coordinator and Executive Associate Director of the Office for Access and Equity at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The charge of the PTF is to:

1. Review current policies and practices for reporting, investigating and resolving complaints of sexual misconduct;
2. Explore best practices for preventing sexual violence/misconduct and providing resources for survivors
3. Examine the existing and pending federal legislation and regulations to determine any potential impact on the University's policies and practices
4. Oversee implementation of the task force recommendations and campus compliance efforts in conjunction with local communities and partners

The President's Task Force (PTF) is also charged with providing quarterly reports, periodic updates to campus communities and local partners, assisting the University's Governmental Relations with drafting updates about University initiatives to the Illinois Congressional delegation and developing and conducting campus climate surveys on all campuses.

Starting in December 2014, the PTF met on a monthly basis via video conference. A website has been developed to create an interface between the PTF work and the community where links are provided to campus specific information, policies and PTF meeting notes. Three subcommittees were created to oversee the work of the PTF. These subcommittees are:

1. Campus Policies and Procedures
2. Training and Prevention Education
3. Campus Climate Survey

Because the University decided not to participate in the campus climate survey created through AAU, most of the efforts of the PTF have focused on how to approach this task. While the Rutgers Survey provided a good foundation, it did not have some vital elements that the PTF wanted to include in their campus climate survey. The PTF wanted to have a campus climate survey that addressed all forms of interpersonal violence not just sexual assault, measured incident rates and assessed perpetrated acts of sexual misconduct. Without an existing, nationally normed the survey, PTF elected to retain parts of the Rutgers' survey but replace others.

To create a sound instrument, it was important to engage content experts from faculty, institutional research and student engagement. A small group of the PTF members created a draft survey to circulate for feedback from each campus. The April deadline did not leave much time for student engagement or to share our survey with members of Big Ten, Urban 13 or other benchmark cohorts for their feedback and possible adoption or receive IRB approval in time to launch the campus climate

survey in April. Consequently, a request was sent to the President to extend the time frame for implementing the Campus Climate Survey to the October 2015, which was granted.

Several committee members met with representatives from the Attorney General's Office to discuss University of Illinois's response to complaints of sexual misconduct and the VAWA amendments to the Clery Act. Of particular interest was the relationship between campus police and community police and whether MOU's governed those relationships; different campus models used to investigate and address complaints of sexual misconduct; and how prevention education was approached. The AEG's office was also interested in learning more about victim supports such as UIC's Campus Advocacy Network that provides administrative and legal advocacy for victims of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence and stalking and the relationship campuses have with community advocacy agencies. The PTF members in attendance expressed concern about additional legislation that might conflict with the current federal mandates. It was suggested that campus efforts would be aided by having a uniform definition of consent in Illinois and protections against FOIA request for individual data from the Campus Climate Survey. The Attorney General will be offering three Summits across the state entitled *Strengthening Campus Response to Sexual Assault*. Some of the PTF members are participating as panelists and representatives from each campus will be attending these Summits.

The PTF will gather feedback from members about the proposed legislation and provide feedback to the Attorney General's office. In addition, the members will provide feedback regarding the changes in the proposed federal legislation entitled *Campus Accountability and Safety Act*. The Office of Governmental Relations is the coordinating liaison for these activities.