President’s Review Panel August 27th, 2014

Notes from public comments section of meeting

President Coltrane spoke about the panel (they are well qualified, etc.). Public sessions are important. For the panel, many sessions must be confidential, but they will try to have open campus times, and will make recommendations public at the end. He is very committed to the work and goals of the panel.

There will be another event like this when school is in session.

Bonnie Mann (Philosophy): Worked as an advocate for battered women. Prevention has to include culture work – making efforts to intervene in a culture in a sustained way. There’s a tendency at the UO to focus on issues of policy and liability. If that’s the focus of the review panel, you won’t do anything in terms of prevention. Prevention requires a sustained availability. Every incoming student should have a required course in sexual ethics (not moralism or abstinence).

Rita Radostitz (Student Life): Need for communication around issues of sexual violence. Suggest that issues of drug and alcohol use and cultural responsiveness should be part of this. We have good programs on campus but aren’t good at accessing them. She is working on a communications plan surrounding prevention efforts and plans to role that out this fall. There are many siloed programs on campus; it would be helpful to collaborate more.

Keith Van Norman (Health Center): Telling a student not to rape is less effective than showing them what we expect them to do. We must engage students on the topic. Let’s incorporate this into our curriculum. Health Center has a sex positive smartphone app. Has been downloaded more than 20,000 times since last October, and is being copied around the U.S. A title IX coordinator at another university is paying us to help them with something similar.

Sam Leah (Graduate Student, high school teacher, Warrior Sisters Society member): While we’re doing this education and culture work, women are getting hurt every year. Jocelyn Hollander has written extensively on the fact that self defense works to prevent sexual assault. Suggests that we put the power back into the hands of the women.

Rachel ? (community member, volunteer with Warrior Sisters Society): As a non-student, the ripple effects of what happens on campus in terms of sexual assault are felt off campus. In Orlando, FA, the police department offered self-defense training for women, and incidences of rape decreased. Self-defense works, and needs to be expanded (must be free or accessible rather or not they can afford to take that credit).
Carol Stabile (Women’s and Gender Studies, Task Force Co-Chair): Need to have a good Samaritan policy on this campus. This is a best practice, and the Senate Task Force looks forward to working with the Review Panel to implement this. One of the Task Force working groups is looking into a mandatory course that would bring faculty and staff together to create content. Also wants to look into the university’s interpretation of mandatory reporting. There is confusion about the UO’s interpretation.

Lori Lander (Housing): Have a poster they put on the back of every residence hall door. Try to make their expectations for students clear, in this case looking out for each other. They do a lot in the residence halls to address this. Now they are also getting more RAs to help create a peer mentorship type relationship. Have also asked RAs to do 3 one-to-ones for each resident on their floor. They work to partner with others across campus. It’s important to reach out to our K-12 partners.

Erin McGladrey (ASUO Women’s Center): Do a campaign for the first six weeks in fall term called the Red Zone Campaign, being explicit about what we’re talking about and being very clear, particularly for potential perpetrators. This needs to be happening at all levels. Would like to see prevention work also happening on staff/administration level. We do not have any staff that work directly with perpetrators or sex offender experts. This would be very helpful. It would be helpful to acknowledge that there are sex workers on campus, and some consumers may be faculty and staff, and provide them some sorts of protections. Be sensitive to international students.

Suzanne Hanlon (Outdoor Program): Outdoor Program has worked very hard to create a safe space for all students. Believes the outdoors is a key preventative. The key is creating a space where people can speak comfortably. Encourage conversations as reports are occurring on campus – how to have respectful conversations, where to find resources. Communication is key. Right now there is too much quiet. The new system of email reports as things occur are an opportunity to discuss what’s happening (since a lot of attacks happen in the area of the Outdoor Programs).

Ryan Kelly (Women’s Self Defense instructor, PE & Rec): Co-teaching with Jocelyn Hollander, and they have added a classroom component to this class, in addition to the self-defense class. Research has shown that measures like increasing lighting and police officers don’t have an impact on sexual assault. The only thing that has been shown to reduce the likelihood of sexual assault is training women on the skills they need to avoid, interrupt, or defend themselves about sexual assault. Need to make sure all people know the definition of consent. Right now it’s not clear defined and/or it’s jargon talk. Then train women on the skills they need to set and enforce good boundaries.

Robert Schumaker? (Chief of staff of Associated Students of LCC and involved with Oregon Students Association): This is a current topic of the Oregon Students
Associate. Wonders what the UO is doing to address “revenge porn.” Last year the OSA had victories surrounding the passage of health amnesty. Students across the state are prioritizing this and want their universities to do the same.