



Sexual Violence Prevention (SVP) Committee Minutes – February 1, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Rebecca Demchuk, Wintre McConnell, Art Barron, Alyxis Watson, Beth Pirouet, Christy Gatto, Stephanie Woodall, Candace Quinlan, Jennifer Johns, Nancy Hempel, Jorge Gutierrez Calzada, Hannah Lacroix, Willow Eldon, Jaimie Randall

Absent: Ryan Peebles, Gregory Lowry, Lydia Fiorini

1. Sexual Misconduct Policy

- Rebecca reported while working on a new case, a few likely tweaks with the new policy have been identified by the lawyer handling the matter. In addition, there are some upcoming legislative changes that we will need to ensure our policy covers. The changes are outlined below.

The Ontario government is now proposing further regulatory changes to the sexual violence and harassment policy requirements and is seeking input from interested stakeholders. The proposed changes are identical for both [colleges and universities](#) and for [private career colleges](#) and contain two new requirements which would protect students who bring forward allegations by:

- *preventing complainants from being asked irrelevant questions during the investigation process, which would include, for example, questions about their past sexual history or sexual expression, and*
- *preventing the imposition of discipline on complainants who, in making the complaint in good faith, disclose information that suggests a violation of the institution's drug and alcohol policy.*

The government is inviting the public to participate in online consultation on the issue and requesting feedback by March 15, 2021.

- As a result, there will likely be some policy changes forthcoming with the hope to have a new document ready for fall, 2021.

2. Residence Update

- The residence went through orientation with new students in January, a portion of which is dedicated to consent, SVP resources and reporting protocols. As a result of COVID, they are not running a lot of programs currently.

Action: Alyxis will summarize activities related to SVP since August 2020 up to now and send the document to R. Demchuk.

3. SRC SVP Student Group Update

- Candace reported on the activities of the SVP student group and shared with the group a report on their activities to date. They include:
 - i. Dirty Bingo – Interactive bingo game that includes health tips and statistics on sexual assaults and healthy relationships.
 - ii. Samantha Bitty – Samantha Bitty has been hired to produce eight videos for SRC. They are posted on the SRC social media and You Tube page. These are fun videos about consent, sex, and respect in relationships. They have received great feedback from students and students have requested additional topics to be highlighted in the coming months.
 - iii. SRC changed their logo to purple for the month of November and started a Paint it Purple theme to provide education around domestic violence including statistics, resources, where to go for help, etc.
 - iv. Awareness campaign on AIDS, STI's were also run.
 - v. Upcoming Event – Spill the Tea – re-run the tea video and open up discussion around consent.
- Great job SVP team!!

4. TSI

- TSI will look at the initiatives of the SRC SVP to see if they can offer some of the same offerings to Chatham students.

5. Website Review

- The team was asked to review the St. Clair College webpage and provide recommendations on ease of use. A great discussion was held on the website with feedback from the SRC SVP team and SAA. A summary of their comments includes:
 - The website is difficult to find – needs to be easy to find when a student is in crisis.
 - Front page needs to be easy to use for a student in crisis.
 - Consider a flowchart that helps students navigate options.

Action Item: Candace is going to send Rebecca some examples that she has seen on the flowchart concept.

6. Statistics Review (high level)

- A discussion was held around statistics. Though they seem to be less this year, there is definite concern over what is actually happening during the pandemic. Nancy stated a concern with some students having to return to difficult living conditions due to the pandemic and working through the trauma once again.
- Beth will compile statistics and share with the group next month as she must pull from various departments.

7. Roundtable

- Nancy talked about the trauma-based approach to talking to students and referenced a recent PD session that she listened to. Nancy will send the link after the meeting. We discussed the potential to set something up for the group.
- SAA and SRC had provided feedback on the “How to Help Students” guide that was shared for feedback. All felt that the guide was a great tool for staff. The discussion circled around creating a guide for students to use so that they know what needs to be brought forward and to whom. Some words or comments are made “in a friend setting” and can be taken out of context and brought forward when they were not meant in the way it was stated. The consensus was that it is better to bring forward, in case the person really does need help, rather than to make the judgement call yourself.
- The group discussed the challenges that COVID has brought to sexual experiences between people and the need for honest conversations if one partner goes outside of the “bubble” in order to protect the other partner from COVID. Candace indicated that this is one of the upcoming topics from Samantha Bitty.

Action Item: Rebecca will bring forward a student guide version of the How to Help guide to the Behaviour Assessment and Care Team for review and development. Rebecca will also review what is available as a PD session from the information that Nancy sends.

8. Student Input

- Rebecca thanked Jaimie and Willow for being student representatives on the committee and asked that additional student representatives be considered by the student groups. Candace indicated that the SVP students assigned to the SRC SVP committee will attend going forward (Rebecca will add to invite list) and Rebecca asked Alyxis to invite a residence advisor if there is interest.

Next Meeting: March 1 at 3PM via Teams