Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault
Annual Report 2017-18

The Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault (PACSA) is one of several Columbia University initiatives to address gender-based misconduct and is charged with advising the president on issues related to the prevention of and response to gender-based misconduct, including sexual assault. The Committee continually works with partners and experts across the University to evaluate policies and procedures and solicit feedback from the Columbia community with the goal of eliminating sexual assault and other forms of gender-based misconduct from our community.

Membership

The Committee is comprised of faculty, staff, and students from both the Morningside and CUMC campuses. This year, several new members were appointed to the Committee by President Bollinger; their two-year terms will conclude in spring 2019. A full membership roster is attached.

Ruby Drake, Columbia College

Ramond Curtis, General Studies

2017-18 Discussions

Over the course of the 2017-18 academic year, the Committee was briefed by partners across the University about services and programs that support gender-based misconduct prevention and address and administer the University’s response to gender-based misconduct.

Specifically, the Committee discussed following topics:
- Sexual Violence Response programs and services
- Gender-Based Misconduct Office’s services
- Policy updates and changes
- Gender-based Misconduct Prevention Task Force
- Sexual Respect and Community Citizenship Initiative
- Faculty and TA Briefings
- SHIFT Survey
- Student Well-Being Survey
- Sexual Harassment

Recommendations

As in previous years, the Committee recommends that offices across the University work to increase student engagement and participation with ongoing prevention efforts. This will deepen the impact of existing programs and foster a cultural shift on campus.
Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault

Committee Membership – 2017-18

Co-chairs

Suzanne Goldberg, Executive Vice President for University Life; Herbert and Doris Wechsler Clinical Professor of Law; Special Advisor to the President for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

Dennis Mitchell, Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion; Associate Professor of Dental Medicine (Community Health and Periodontics) at the Columbia University Medical Center; and Senior Associate Dean for Diversity, College of Dental Medicine

Membership Ending 2018

Melanie Bernitz, Associate Vice President/Medical Director, Columbia Health Services; Assistant Clinical Professor (in the Center for Family and Community Medicine)

Marjy Fisher, Associate Vice President & Title IX Coordinator

Marj Berman, Student, Public Health

Membership Ending 2019

Ramond Curtis, Student, General Studies

Jewelnel Davis, University Chaplain, Director of Earl Hall

Ruby Drake, Student, Columbia College

Bruce Kogut, Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. Professor of Leadership and Ethics

Sharyn O’Halloran, George Blumenthal Professor of Political Economy and Professor of International and Public Affairs

Scott Wright, Vice President, Facilities

Ex-Officio

Donna Fenn, Associate General Counsel

Jeri Henry, Associate Vice President, Student Conduct and Community Standards

La’Shawn Rivera, Executive Director, Sexual Violence Response/Rape Crisis Center