

## **Introduction and Rationale**

On Thursday, July 25, 2019, the Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault hosted a “Round Table on Sexual Violence,” a forum for all students to express their questions, comments, and concerns regarding policy, prevention efforts, response processes and protocols, or anything relating to sexual violence at Dartmouth. Kristi Clemens (Title IX Coordinator), Gary Sund (Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Intake), Sophia Brelvi (Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Training) and Eric Ramsey (Associate Dean of Student Life) were present at the event to answer questions. In addition, we created a Google Form for any students who could not attend the event to share their comments and thoughts. SPCSA hosts this event each term in order to formally serve as a liaison between students and administrators. We believe that with access to this direct student feedback, administrative leaders can better understand how to tailor policies and initiatives to students and continue to cultivate the student-administration relationship. Below is a summary of feedback from the event and the Google Form.

Please direct any questions about this feedback or the event in general to SPCSA leadership via our email: [student.and.presidential.committee.on.sexual.assault@dartmouth.edu](mailto:student.and.presidential.committee.on.sexual.assault@dartmouth.edu).

## **Key Themes**

**Theme 1A:** *Students expressed concern that the student body’s understanding of what Title IX (as an entity on campus) is and what it can do for students is lacking.*

- Attendees stated that this lack of knowledge seems to stem from the fact that many members of the classes of 2021 and 2020 did not receive as much programming surrounding resources as other classes.
- Students felt that certain programming that mentions Title IX and resources in general is ineffective in creating a working knowledge about Title IX.
  - Specifically, students mentioned that having private and confidential resources mentioned at the end of Movement Against Violence (MAV) facilitations did not result in a working knowledge of their differences or of Title IX.
  - They also mentioned that professors including a brief description of Title IX on syllabi but not mentioning it explicitly is also ineffective in creating an understanding of Title IX.
- Students noted that certain communities associate the Title IX office with negative survivor experiences.

**Recommendations:** *The classes of 2020 and 2021 should receive more programming that includes active discussion about Title IX and resources in general. Additionally, professors*

*should be encouraged to briefly talk about Title IX as a resource when going over their syllabus. The College should also ensure that professors understand the importance of their role as a private resource. Lastly, Title IX should advertise that currently there are several staff members in the office with whom students can meet.*

**Relevant to:** *Title IX, Dean of the Faculty*

**Theme 1B:** *As upperclassmen who have not experienced many SVPP facilitations, students voiced concern about the gap in knowledge between upperclassmen and other classes.*

- Students feel that the new SVPP programs seem to exclude upperclassmen and leave them without institutional support or education regarding sexual violence going forwards.
  - Specifically, students wanted more clarity as to how MAV facilitations are going to be replaced and what prevention programming will be mandated or available for the classes of 2020 and 2021.
- In addition, the dissolution of MAV is increasing concerns about lack of accountability with regards to upperclassmen participating and engaging in sexual violence prevention.

**Recommendations:** *Similar to the first recommendation, the College should provide and mandate ongoing sexual violence prevention programming for the classes of 2021 and 2020. Additionally, optional programming or facilitation opportunities should be advertised to the student body as a whole.*

**Relevant to:** *Office of Greek Life, Office of Pluralism & Leadership, Student Wellness Center*

**Theme 2:** *Students felt that this term (19X) there seems to be less accountability for Greek houses both in terms of sexual violence prevention and response.*

- House presidents either seem to be unaware that their house needs to complete a MAV facilitation this summer or unwilling to schedule a MAV facilitation for this summer.
- Several Greek leaders expressed confusion about GLC's role in enforcing and mandating MAV facilitations and felt that in general communication surrounding prevention requirements was unclear or lacking.
- Students described an overall lack of respect for physical Greek spaces themselves and by extension those inhabiting and occupying those spaces.

**Recommendation:** *More frequent and clear communication between the GLC and Greek leaders is needed going forward, especially with regards to violence prevention initiatives, whatever that looks like in the future (we recognize that after this term MAV will no longer be running facilitations). Additionally, Greek leaders need to be given a space to discuss and clarify community guidelines and expectations for the Greek community as a whole.*

**Relevant to:** *Office of Greek Life*

**Theme 3:** *There is a fundamental lack of understanding surrounding blacklists that is detrimental to fostering a sense of safety and comfort for house members (blacklists are lists of individuals who are not welcome in particular houses).*

- Students expressed confusion about whether houses are allowed to have blacklists and what are appropriate ways to enforce said blacklists.
- Many Greek houses acknowledged the existence of blacklists but expressed concern about inconsistent processes regarding blacklist creation and enforcement.
- Students discussed the possible complications of and issues with sharing blacklists between houses and emphasised the importance of maintaining house members' agency throughout the process.

**Recommendation:** *Houses should be given clear guidelines on how blacklists can be created and how they can be enforced. They should also be given the opportunity to discuss with other houses etiquette surrounding blacklists at joint and multi- house events.*

**Relevant to:** *Office of Greek Life, Title IX*