

Introduction and Rationale

On Wednesday, October 14, 2020, the Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault (SPCSA) hosted our termly “Round Table on Sexual Assault,” a virtual forum for all members of the Dartmouth community to share their questions, comments, and concerns regarding policy, prevention efforts, response processes and protocols, or anything else relating to sexual violence at Dartmouth. The synchronous event was also paired with a Google Form for any students who could not attend the event to share their comments and thoughts asynchronously. SPCSA hosts this event to formally serve as a liaison between students and administrators. We believe that with access to this direct student feedback, administrative leaders and staff 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.

Key Themes

Theme 1: *Secrecy and Stratification:*

Theme 1a: *Students feel less inclined to use reporting mechanisms of the College during the COVID-19 pandemic for fear of being sent home or out of fear of sending other peers home.*

- Some students were concerned about perpetrators empowered by the knowledge that students are worried about reporting to Title IX.
- Students expressed uncertainty about whether they can seek medical assistance through the Good Sam policy without being subject to disciplinary action for violating the Community Expectations Agreement in situations involving alcohol.

Recommendation 1a: The College should consider publishing an exception statement to the COVID-19 Community Expectations Agreement in regards to the Good Sam policy. The Title IX Office published a similar exception statement on Monday, October 26th for reference.

Theme 1b: *Students expressed concerns that social stratification has increased due to unequal access to resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- Access to cars and off-campus housing, which are seen as resources required for social interactions, is differentiated by students’ economic resources.

Recommendation 1b: The College should implement programs that support social interactions between *all* students, such as:

- Coupons for Hanover restaurants for students that wish to purchase food with friends. Similar to the Take a Faculty Member to Breakfast or Lunch program, students should be able to request a coupon for a restaurant for them and their friends through the Undergraduate Deans office to facilitate student interaction, especially amongst students with different access to resources required for social interactions.
- Opening social spaces, such as the Cube and Onion, to all students enrolled on- and off-campus, as soon as possible with the consideration of COVID-19.
- Reimbursements for ZipCar use for social activities under the cost of \$15 per group of students. Students would have to show that their trip was within the geographic boundaries of COVID-19 and what they did with their time. For example, students could go to Ice Cream Fore-U as a group or even just take a ride down the highway together.
 - Alternatively, the Office of Student Life should publish an explanation of how to redeem a ZipCar license and advertise this to all students at the beginning of the term.
- Work with the DOC to support their efforts in organizing and funding outdoor programs for students who have never experienced or had the chance to engage with activities such as hiking, skiing, snow-shoeing, etc.

Relevant to: The Office of Student Life, the Office of Student Affairs

Theme 2: *Support Networks and Community*

Theme 2a: *Students expressed concern that many '24s lack support networks on campus due to COVID-19 restrictions.*

- Remote classes are a barrier to developing relationships with College faculty and staff, and social distancing guidelines make it more challenging for '24s to meet other students. Without an adequate support network, students may not know where to turn if they experience harm.

Recommendation 2a: Campus offices and student organizations should encourage and support student organizations' efforts for relationship-building between upperclassmen and '24s, both in-person and virtually.

- Palaeopitus is launching a student bonding project that will help people stay connected to other Dartmouth students when not on campus. The College should look into upholding and bolstering this project and similar initiatives.

Relevant to: *The Office of Student Life, the Office of Student Affairs, Student Wellness Center, Counseling, Dean of the College*

Theme 2b: *Students expressed concern that COVID-19 guidelines in 21W will leave students feeling isolated.*

- Without outdoor and tent gatherings during 21W, it is not clear where students will be able to interact with each other.

Recommendation 2b: The College should continue to consider this challenge as various offices create adequate programming this winter to provide students with spaces to see and meet other students. Possible solutions could be:

- Creating small pods that would allow students to socialize with a defined group of peers for the duration of the term. These pods could have access to reserving a table at Class of 1953 Commons or a study room.
- Advertising indoor spaces like the Cube and Onion to all of campus.
- Increasing outdoor activity availability with the help of the DOC.

Relevant to: *The Office of Student Life, the Office of Student Affairs, Student Wellness Center, Counseling, Dean of the College, DOC, Office of Residential Life*

Theme 3: Accountability and Resources

Theme 3a: *Students mentioned that they feel a need for alternative methods of accountability to hold members of their organizations accountable.*

- Some organizations have adopted internal adjudication procedures of holding individuals accountable for misconduct, including expulsion from the group for not following COVID-19 guidelines. Groups are turning to these measures as alternatives to reporting Community Expectations Agreement violations to the College. Similar to internal adjudication methods in response to experiences with gender-based violence, these methods of alternative accountability arise when the College's adjudication processes do not align with students' visions of accountability.

Recommendation 3a: Dean of the College should outline how an organization or student group can respond when a member breaks COVID-19 guidelines.

Relevant to: *Dean of the College, Office of Student Affairs, Office of Safety and Security*

Theme 3b: *Students expressed that the Amnesty policy fails to properly communicate the scope and consequences for all students. Due to a lack of exact knowledge, students feel less inclined to use reporting resources.*

Title IX addressed this concern when they released [a new and revised Amnesty Policy](#) this past week.

Relevant to: *Title IX*

Theme 3c: *Students living off-campus feel uncertain of the scope of College resources available to them, which can manifest in hesitation around contacting the Department of Safety and Security and the Title IX Office.*

- Many students believed that many social interactions take place in off-campus locations believed to be “outside College jurisdiction.”
- There is a student perception that anyone without on-campus approval does not have access to student reporting resources like Title IX and S&S.

Recommendation 1a: The College should release an email describing the resources available to students not in residence at the start of each term and have it available on the College’s website. There should be communication distinguishing resources for students that have on-campus approval and those who do not.

Relevant to: *The President’s Office*

Theme 3d: *Students expressed concern with the lack of resources — particularly those related to sexual and reproductive health (condoms, lube, etc.) — in residential halls. The lack of distribution of those resources has created unequal access to reproductive health resources.*

Recommendation 3d: The Office of Residential Life should continue to provide sexual and reproductive health resources during the current school year.

Relevant to: *The Office of Residential Life*