

Introduction and Rationale

On Thursday, January 30, 2020, the Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault hosted a “Round Table on Sexual Assault,” 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. 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.

Key Themes

Theme 1: *Students expressed concern that upperclassmen are not participating in SVPP facilitations. Furthermore, upperclassmen who are not affiliated with Greek Organizations or varsity athletes completely miss out on sexual violence prevention programming.*

Theme 1a: *Students expressed concerns that the classes of 2020-2022 will not participate in SVPP programming.*

- Students discussed how, for the next three years, there will be underclassmen who have not participated in updated sexual violence prevention programming and who have not participated in this programming at all since their first year at Dartmouth. Upperclassmen are supposed to act as role models for younger students, but students noted that their relative lack of sexual violence prevention programming might limit the extent to which they can model good behavior for younger students.

Recommendation 1a: *SVPP should be intentional about designing future upperclassmen-directed programming so that the programs recognize the social influence they have over younger, more vulnerable and impressionable students. Future programs should strive to instill a sense of responsibility in upperclassmen as role models for underclassmen.*

Relevant to: *The Student Wellness Center*

Theme 1b: *Students noted that currently, among upperclassmen, sexual violence prevention programming only exists for affiliated students and for varsity athletes.*

- If upperclassmen are interested in sexual violence prevention programming and they are not affiliated or on a varsity team, they must actively seek out training. As a result, many students in the classes of 2020-2022 will not participate in any sexual violence prevention programming after their first year at Dartmouth.

Recommendation 1b: *SVPP should be mindful of making sure future SVPP programming captures all student groups and also communicating SVPP's intentions for future years to address and mitigate student body concerns about the accessibility of SVPP programming.*

Relevant to: *The Student Wellness Center*

Theme 2: *Safe rides are not available to students when they need them.*

Theme 2a: *Safe Rides will not pick up students from certain events*

- Students expressed that Safe Rides won't pick up students from registered events at Greek houses, so students often have to go out of their way to relocate themselves from where they were, defeating the purpose of a safe ride
 - This is particularly concerning given that people also live in Greek houses aside from the events that are happening in the space

Recommendation 2a: *Safety and Security should re-evaluate their policy on the locations safe rides are allowed to pick students up from with accessibility in mind and consider expanding the program to ensure that students in need of the program are able to access it.*

Relevant to: *Department of Safety and Security*

Theme 2b: *The Department of Safety and Security's current protocol for driving students to DHMC makes students feel uncomfortable, making the service less accessible*

- Many students have expressed difficulty in getting rides to DHMC — specifically, students have reported being uncomfortable when asked questions about why they were going to DHMC.
- Some students shared that they were asked questions that called for private information, which students did not feel comfortable sharing. These students sensed heistance and annoyance from the officers with whom they interacted when requesting a ride to DHMC.

Recommendation 2b: *Safety and Security should refrain from asking students questions that involve their medical information prior to picking students up and taking them to*

DHMC. Safety and Security should also reevaluate their standards for fulfilling requests to be taken to DHMC, make it as accessible as possible, and communicate it clearly to the student body.

Relevant to: *Department of Safety and Security*

Theme 3: *First-year trips and other activities welcoming freshmen to campus create a culture of harmful views on sexual relationships.*

Theme 3: *Terms like “trip-cest” and “floor-cest” are used to describe sexual relationships between freshmen shames students about their sexual activity.*

- Currently, students who run all aspects of trips refer to sexual relationships between students on the same trip as “trip-cest;” similarly, there are many denominations of “incest” used exclusively to describe freshmen/underclassmen’s sexual activities
 - This creates a harmful power dynamic between upper and underclassmen where underclassmen’s sexual relationships are up for the scrutiny of and are policed by upperclassmen.
 - Furthermore, the “incest” related terms make underclassmen’s sexual behavior the subject of humiliation and shaming, creating a harmful sex-negative culture, and further can be alienating to individuals who have experienced harm or abuse within their families.

Recommendation 3: *Stakeholders involved in first-year trips, first-year floors, orientation, and other first-year specific initiatives should take extra precaution to train any upperclassmen students and staff to avoid using such harmful language.*

Relevant to: *Outdoor Programs Office, Residential Life*