FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ON CAMPUS GRANT

TASK FORCE, MEETING TWO
JULY 24, 2002
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

FIU University Park Campus
Graham Center – East Ballroom

Report of Proceedings

WELCOME/AGENDA REVIEW

Sharon M. Aaron, Director, Victim Advocacy Center (VAC), called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming.

Ms. Aaron then turned the meeting over to the meeting facilitator, Janice M. Fleischer, who reviewed the day's Agenda (Exhibit A) and objectives:

- ➢ Finalize the mission statement generated at the last meeting
- ➢ Become familiar with the Student Code of Conduct and relevant Statutes
- ➢ Review policy areas and generate issues
- ➢ Consider what further information is needed

Reports from all meetings of the full Task Force can be found at: www.sfrpc.com, 'The Institute", "Projects", "The Violence Against Women on College Campuses Task Force" .

Ms. Fleischer then initiated a short round of introductions.

FINALIZE MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Fleischer explained to the group that she had reviewed the three mission statements that had been drafted at the last meeting. She combined the elements of the drafts along with the core values identified at the first meeting to generate a new "unified" draft. She asked the group to read the "unified" draft mission statement and offer comments and suggestions. After some discussion, the group adopted the following Mission Statement:

The Violence Against Women On Campus Task Force at Florida International University is comprised of key university and community leaders committed to increasing student safety by reducing violence against women on campuses everywhere. Our task is to review policies and address the specific problems of stalking, dating/domestic violence, sexual assault and cyber stalking. We are dedicated to developing policy recommendations for a coordinated campus community response to violence against women.

In all endeavors, we will honor our core values of:
Respect
Commitment
Open-mindedness
Efficiency
Honesty

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT PRESENTATION

Sharon M. Aaron introduced Karen Dlhosh, F.I.U. Director of Judicial and Mediation Services (JMS), who spoke on FIU's Student Code of Conduct and judicial and mediation services. Members of the task force discussed the following questions with Ms. Dlhosh:

1) If criminal procedures, at what point does JMS get involved?
2) What is burden of proof (re: JMS)?
3) Can JMS information be obtained for outside proceedings?
4) What are the possible sanctions?
5) Are victims given any protections subsequent to hearing?
6) Who comprises the panels that hear the complaints?
7) How long does an individual serve on panels?
8) How were policies developed at FIU?
9) How do you accommodate students who are disabled?
10) Are the orientations to the student code mandatory?

As a courtesy to those individuals who were not present at the meeting, Ms. Dlhosh has provided her answers to the above questions in written form. They are attached as Exhibit B to this Report.

You can obtain more information about JMS by going to: www.fiu.edu/~jms.

STATUTES AND DEFINITIONS

Following Ms. Dlhosh's presentation, Ms.Aaron introduced Cynthia Pucillo, Esq., Case Manager, Domestic Violence Division, Administrative Office of the Courts, who spoke on civil court statutes and definitions. Members discussed court coordination with the community and burden of proof issues, among other topics, with Ms. Pucillo.

A copy of the materials provided by Ms. Pucillo is attached as Exhibit C.

At this point in the meeting, participants took a short break.

POLICY AREA ISSUE GENERATION

This Task Force was formed in response to a grant awarded to FIU Victim Advocacy Center by the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant is a collaborative effort by community based agencies and campus departments to address the problems of:

Stalking,
Computer network facilitated victimization (currently referred to as Cyber-Stalking)
Sexual Assault
Dating/Domestic Violence.

The Task Force is charged with addressing the first of the Grant's three goals, which are:

1. Develop a coordinated community response to campus victimization;
2. Increase victim assistance services to international and non-traditional student populations; and
3. Produce culturally appropriate and sensitive prevention and awareness-oriented educational materials.

The Task Force is given several responsibilities. Among them are:
1. Reviewing existing policies and practices in connection with the four problem areas;
2. Making policy recommendations to revise university policies that outline a coordinated community response to situations involving sexual violence, domestic/dating violence, stalking, and computer-network fcilitate victimization.
3. Assisting in developing an implementation plan for the policy recommendations.

Ms. Fleischer explained to the group that in order to draft policy, they must first identify the issues involved in each area. The members and observers then entered into a brainstorming session to list the issues. The results of this activity are:

General Policy Suggestions that relate to all four categories:
- Education and communication with the courts is necessary
- Student code requires student & staff to report if they have a restraining order or stay-away
- Education and training
- Developmental disabilities and are they how handled
- Influence of alcohol & drugs

STALKING
1) Definitions are needed.
2) How do we give students info they need to make a stalking case stick?
3) How do we address offenders needing to be in same space as victim?
4) Inclusive not exclusive of populations who are experiencing this (cyber too)

CYBER STALKING
1) How do we identify the person making threats?
2) Who collects evidence? (i.e. – record; no delete)
3) How do we deal with individuals who can 'hack' into system?
4) Computer infrastructure
5) Create policies for students
6) Tapping into current resources re: cyber crimes
7) May want to call this 'cyber crimes'
8) Procedures to effectuate (look at current software)

SEXUAL ASSAULT
1) Policy on non-reporting victim; what do we do with offender?
2) Protecting rights of offender too.
3) Provisions for offenders who are in a position of authority (faculty, staff, etc.)
4) Environmental safety (i.e. lighting)
5) Promotion of prevention courses

DATING / DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
1) Link to JMS from Campus Police
2) How do we define evidence?
3) How do we ensure the safety of someone who comes forward?

During the course of identifying issues, members also made the following comments and suggestions:

1) Look to the Registrar's Office for enforcement
2) Definitions for what is appropriate in sanctions
3) Keep language consistent with 'off-campus' wording

4) Communication to advisors
5) Confidentiality is a general overall issue
6) Resistance to 'going public'
7) Coordination of communication
8) How does a campus know that a potential offender is on campus?
9) International aspect
   a. confidentiality,
   b. immigration,
   c. consequences
10) How do we identify which individuals have restraining orders against them?
11) Case management issues
12) Education & informing student population / definitions
   a. talk to Deans
   b. make it a curriculum requirement
13) Traditional age vs. non-traditional college age student
14) Input from students vital;
   a. where do they stand;
   b. how do we get proactive?
15) Gender differences re: reactions and education
16) Balance of persons rights vs. safe campus
17) Attempt to replicate outside; don't fall through cracks just because on a campus
18) Improve on statutes / definitions to make them more effective
19) Make sure those who are tasked to enforce are properly trained and have on-going training
20) How do we deal with recognition of offenders (pictures, etc.)?
21) How do we identify and cope with our own attitudes & biases?
22) What tolerance levels will we have?
23) Balancing students' rights may actually impair the process

OTHER INFORMATION/PRESENTATIONS NEEDED

Ms. Fleischer asked the group to identify other information or presentations needed for future meetings, upon which the following suggestions were offered:

1) Compile list of all resources available
2) Diversion programs – what is available as a resource?
3) Obtain data on actual vs. numbers reported
4) What is and what is not freedom of expression?
5) Need political support
6) Need the following representatives on the Task Force:
   a. Human Resources
   b. Student representative
   c. Office of Employee Assistance representation
   d. Faculty representation

LOGO DISCUSSION

The group was asked if they would like to consider adopting a logo for the Task Force. Charlie Andrews, Associate Director, Orientation and Commuter Students, and Peter Leighton, Coordinator, Judicial and Mediation Services were tasked with having logo options drawn that would be brought back to the group at the next meeting.

WRAP UP AND AJOURN

Ms. Aaron thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She announced future meeting dates and times, and spoke shortly about next steps. Ms. Fleischer asked the group to fill in their evaluation forms.

The meeting was then adjourned.