

December 11, 2018
5:30PM
SGA Open Forum
Ernst Common Room

Sign the **Take Back Our Showers** Google Form to receive an email template to help you draft your own emails to administrators - <https://goo.gl/forms/2Yf5T3XVrxYRcxAd2>

Follow **Take Back Our Showers** [Facebook page](#) for important updates, notices, and resources to empower your student voice.

In attendance: Dean Arcelus, Dean Mendelez, Dean Manning, Dean Mcknight, Dean Morash, REF, SGA President, SGA Vice President.

Mary Savage, Dean Arcelus, Dean Manning and Dean Mcknight have been working on this.

What We Know So Far:

- 4 (reported) incidents
- Dean Manning's facts→ 4 reported incidents of **women** coming forward saying that they were
- 2 incidents in oct, 1 in end of nov, another at beginning of dec
- Investigation into all four incidents is continuing.
- 2 separate investigations happening (internal and external)
 - Continuing investigations, esp with the last two
- There was a trained investigator looking into first 2→ didn't yield any info
- With first 3 investigations, all have been reported to the New London Police Department, who is conducting investigation as well
 - College administrators and campus safety are working closely w police, esp Mary Savage
- Don't have a description of any of the perpetrators; save for phone descriptions, the color of the skin of the hand(s), and a pair of sneakers worn by one of the perpetrators.
 - Therefore, it's hard to do investigation without this description
- Policy violations→ sexual exploitation, taking pictures, audio of sexual act without consent
- From the perspective of law enforcement/police→ these incidents are a Class D felony (criminal behavior)
- Obligation to prevent another occurrence
- We want to hold the perpetrators accountable for victims and the greater community
- Investigations have many dead ends

Communication:

- Trying to strike a balance of communicating (??)

- "With title IX, comes confidentiality"
 - Communicate issue on a need to know basis→ what about the victims??
- Person was not caught and not expelled
 - *Rumors are being spread because we don't have information*
- Protected under FERPA
- Deans meeting with NLPD, will be discussing investigation

A Call for Community Effort, especially by Dean Manning:

- Community effort→ cannot be solved right away
- Green dot

Our campaign is trying to unite the community and work together to better understand and solve this problem→ cannot work together if they do not involve students in this process

Proposed/Brainstormed Strategies and Prevention

- Short and long term remedies on campus
 - Considered renovations in residence halls→ making showers into single-use, individual stalls
 - BUT, poses mold problems from lack of adequate ventilation
 - *(Why don't they involve students in this?)*
 - Also considered installing card access on bathroom doors
 - Considered installing cameras in hallways
 - Broader implications on residential experience
 - SGA was involved in this discussion; there were two perspectives. Some students agreed and saw the overall benefits of installing cameras; some students pushed back on the increase of general surveillance.
- Deans acknowledged that students should be involved in the process and encouraged input.

Student Questions and Answers:

Question 1: Able to share where the phone cameras were?

- Both above and below the stalls
- In diff situations→ there have 2 underneath and 2 above

Question 2: Verify what happened in these incidents? Victim testimonies

- In the dressing area
- Happened to see this
- Haven't heard anyone/noise to alert them
- All iPhones
 - Describe sneakers
 - Some only saw the hand (and color)
 - Main info is desc of phones

- Not consistent, may be different people

Question 3: Why is it only New London Police?

- Back half of Johnson and Hamilton is Waterford

Question 4: Where is this occurring?

- 3 in plant, 1 in Morrison

Question 5: How to be aware/be safer in the bathrooms?

- Notice behaviors
- Understand concern and nerves about it
- Community watch
- Banner shows that people are alert

Question 6: Question about limiting camel cards and how abruptly it happened/consequences?

How will we include students in the decision making process?

- Work with SGA

To be prepared→ what should we do? Is the person dangerous?

- Do what you feel comfortable doing and pass information onto the school
- Ensure your safety→ try to get a description, don't try to confront them

Question 7: After the first offense, everyone in plant was interviewed. Why did this not happen in the next incidents?

- Can't dictate what NLPD does
- Also the victim decides if they want NLPD involved
 - Talking very holistically with them
- Student felt that investigation was effective
- In the next two, it was reported later and the police showed up

Question 8: Can you tell us the times that they happened?

- One in the morning, last three at night (Manning did not know)

Question 9: Possible to get updates on how it's going? And prevent gap in time?

Question 10: Did these take place in lockable stalls? Any that don't?

House staff has been told to be more vigilant

Our Questions to ask: Can we disclose which floors this happened on? And in the future will we know (especially residents) where it happened?

Takeaway Notes from Grace:

[TakeBackOurShowers email campaign] is not to attack administration but more to empower students to feel heard and continue conversations like these. We will continue to work on this problem and engaging with students around this issue. I think these questions show that there was a lack of helpful information. I believe that their focus on community is interesting because there was definitely a lack of community action before the banner and open forum. However, that being said, we are happy to see the beginning of more open communication with students.

Takeaway Notes from Devon:

The fact that we were willingly given much more information than what was included in the emails illustrates an overall lack of consistent communication and transparency. Questions posed by students, ranging from very specific to much broader questions also demonstrates that students lack adequate information. Furthermore, that this lack of information has increased feelings of vulnerability, insecurity, and frustration in students. While increased personal vigilance was offered by Dean Arcelus and Dean Manning as a short-term safety strategy, we know this is not enough. The Deans acknowledged how hard it will be to actually catch the perpetrators. *And even if they were caught and identified, their names would not be released to the campus community.* A timeline of when to expect concrete preventative solutions was not available.

Dean Manning often stressed the importance of community collaboration and the importance of coming forward with any helpful information (no matter how small you think it is), but from my perspective, community effort can only go so far. In my personal opinion, the identities of the perpetrator(s) are being protected by their friend(s) or other persons in their social circle who personally know of the incidents. Personally, I believe this is a case of men protecting the sexism, patriarchy, and position of other men.

What I wish the administration was transparent about were the genders of those who filed reports and of those who are described as perpetrators. The true root of these incidents is some men on this campus feel entitled to exploiting and exposing a woman's body without consent. But fighting or protesting against the larger issue of sexism and chauvinism on a small campus is not productive. Therefore, even though the perpetrators might never be identified or caught, I think our focus should be to prevent future incidents and ensure holistic support for victims/survivors who come forward and file reports.

This open forum was a great **beginning** of generating more student dialogue and engagement with the issue and with administrators.