



## *Duke Students Against Gender Violence*

Introduced: Jessica Van Meir, Senator of Equity and Outreach

November 6, 2016

### **Proposal**

Duke Students Against Gender Violence will serve as a coalition of all student groups on campus whose purpose is to address gender violence, including but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking. This coalition will meet on a regular basis and serve to improve collaboration and communication between these organizations and better disseminate information to the student body.

### **Reasons**

Sexual assault and other forms of gender violence remain a pervasive problem at Duke and on other college campuses across the United States. A multitude of studies find that approximately 20-25% of women and 5-7% of men are sexually assaulted as college undergraduates.<sup>1</sup> During the 2015-2016 academic year, Duke's Office of Institutional Equity received 124 reports of sexual misconduct, and the Women's Center's Office of Gender Violence Prevention and Intervention provided face-to-face services to 185 students.<sup>2</sup>

Along with the Women's Center, the Office of Institutional Equity, and the Sexual Misconduct Task Force to reduce gender violence on campus, many student organizations dedicate themselves to addressing this issue. The existence of multiple groups working on gender violence is heartening, for it suggests many students take the issue seriously and work to address it from multiple perspectives. The existence of so many different organizations working on the issue, however, risks that efforts may remain dispersed. There sometimes exists insufficient communication between these groups, creating instances in which multiple groups may work on similar projects simultaneously without knowing that others are doing the same thing. Undergraduate and graduate students working on gender violence remain particularly disconnected. Could these groups better communicate, they could more easily focus their efforts, avoid redundancy between projects, and create a university-wide strategy for fighting gender violence. Further, some well-meaning students who wish to take action against gender violence may not have the information or training necessary to do so appropriately and effectively. A larger student body

that incorporates existing organizations could facilitate the work of these organizations and provide resources to students hoping to get involved.

### **Participating groups**

The following groups have agreed to take part in the coalition:

- Duke Support
- We Are Here Duke
- Develle Dish - Breaking Out Project
- DSG Equity and Outreach
- The Duke Men's Project
- HeforShe@Duke
- The Feminist Make-Space
- The Women's Center Gender Violence Prevention Interns
- Peer Advocates for Sexual Health (PASH)
- Interfraternity Council (IFC) Sexual Assault Prevention Team
- GPSC Sexual Misconduct Task Force
- Duke Law School's Coalition Against Gendered Violence
- WiSE (Women in Science and Engineering)

### **Work done so far**

Spring 2015:

- Presented idea to members of the Sexual Misconduct Committee (including Title IX Coordinator Howie Kallem; Associate Dean of Students, Title IX Outreach & Response Victoria Krebs; Women's Center staff; and Duke Support).
- Solicited approval from DSG Equity & Outreach committee.
- Solicited support from VP of Student Affairs Larry Moneta.
- Presented idea to Sexual Misconduct Task Force.
- Obtained administrative access to Duke Students Against Sexual Assault Facebook page (created by former DSG Senator John Guarco).

Fall 2016:

- Contacted undergraduate and graduate student groups working on gender violence to request their participation.
- November 5, 2016 - Held first Duke Students Against Gender Violence meeting.
  - Nicole Sully of the Law School's Coalition Against Gendered Violence volunteered as co-chair.

### **Future timeline**

Fall 2016:

- Send description of Duke Students Against Gender Violence, along with bios and contact info of all participating groups to Larry Moneta for inclusion on the new Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website.
- Request logo and marketing materials.
- Convert Duke Students Against Sexual Assault Facebook page to Duke Students Against Gender Violence.
- Week after Thanksgiving break - Hold kickoff event.
- Compile master listserv, including members of all participating groups, for weekly email blast with upcoming gender violence-related events.
- Hold next meeting.

Spring 2017 and beyond:

- Continue holding monthly meetings and sending weekly email blast.
- Create informational material for dissemination on Facebook page.
- April 2017 - Elect new co-chairs.

### **Funding for programming:**

- Larry Moneta offered to provide pizza for kickoff event.
- Propose budgetary statute to DSG and GPSC to obtain marketing materials for kickoff event.

### **Contact:**

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