




UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

UNIVERSITY SENATE

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Memorandum

To: Cynthia Hale, Chair, Joint President/Senate Sexual Harassment Task Force

From: Martha Nell Smith, Chair of the University Senate 

Date: February 6, 2013

Re: Proposal to Mandate Sexual Assault Prevention Education for Students
(Senate Doc. No. 12-13-40)

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) requests that the Sexual Harassment Task Force review the attached proposal, "Proposal to Mandate Sexual Assault Prevention Education for Students."

The Senate Executive Committee reviewed the proposal at its February 1, 2013 meeting. Members of the SEC raised concerns about the startling statistics noted by the proposers and would like this issue to be reviewed more closely. However, we agreed that the concerns raised align closely with the work of the task force. Therefore, the SEC requests that the Sexual Harassment Task Force review the proposal and consider whether sexual assault prevention education should be mandated for all students. We request that you report on any actions related to this request and incorporate that into your report scheduled to come to the SEC on March 30th. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Ms. Reka Montfort at x55804 or reka@umd.edu.

Attachment

MNS/rm

**University Senate
PROPOSAL FORM**

Name:	Lauren Redding
Date:	January 27, 2013
Title of Proposal:	Proposal to Mandate Sexual Assault Prevention Education
Phone Number:	240-285-0097
Email Address:	laurredding@gmail.com
Campus Address:	1706 Hampshire Green Lane, Apt. 34, Silver Spring MD, 20903
Unit/Department/ College:	Philip Merrill College of Journalism
Constituency (faculty, staff, undergraduate, graduate):	Undergraduate student
Description of issue/concern/policy in question:	According to VI-1.30(A) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND PROCEDURES ON SEXUAL ASSAULT AND MISCONDUCT, " <u>The University is committed to educating the campus community about the nature and consequences of sexual misconduct.</u> " The policy pledges a commitment to prevention education, yet does nothing to make sure every student receives this critical information. This university policy should be amended to mandate sexual assault prevention education for every incoming student (freshmen and transfer) to address this urgent issue.
Description of action/changes you would like to see implemented and why:	According to the Department of Justice, 1 in 5 female students will become a victim of sexual violence during her time in college. 1 in 5 women will also be in an abusive relationship during college. According to a 2000 University of Maryland study, 13.8 percent of UMD women will be a victim of rape during their time on this campus. Sexual assault is not just a women's issue: One in seven men will

	<p>also be sexually assaulted while in college.</p> <p>This is a serious problem on this campus. From 2011-2012, the university's Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Program (SARPP) saw 76 new clients — including 20 rape victims, 17 sexual assault victims, five gang rape victims, six attempted rape victims, nine relationship violence victims and 12 stalking victims. It's important to note that sexual assault is an extremely underreported crime. Statistically, according to the Department of Justice, only 5 percent of victims report the crime. The 76 clients that SARPP served last year is just the tip of the iceberg.</p> <p>Sexual assault is a complex issue; prevention will not be achieved solely by hanging posters about consent in dorm hallways. Given these startling statistics, the university needs to be more proactive in educating its students about the nuances of this issue, how to get consent, how drinking affects consent, the consequences of sexual assault, etc. SARPP presents on these topics whenever requested, but too many students are missing out on this education. They shouldn't be given the choice of whether or not they want to learn about sexual assault, because it's a reality every student at this university must deal with.</p> <p>Establishing a mandatory sexual assault prevention program is also a component of the Department of Justice grant that SARPP is currently re-applying for. The program will be more likely to receive funding - and likely more funding than previously given - if such a mandate is in place.</p>
<p>Suggestions for how your proposal could be put into practice:</p>	<p>SARPP currently has 12 student peer educators that are trained over the summer and give presentations on sexual assault when requested by classes, fraternities/sororities, clubs, etc. Freshmen most often hear a SARPP presentation in UNIV100, but the program refuses to mandate what UNIV100 instructors can/can't teach. Additionally, not all students are required to take UNIV100; some students, in programs such as Honors, do not take the course.</p> <p>Several of our peer institutions, including UC Berkeley and Illinois Urbana-Champaign, mandate sexual assault</p>

	<p>prevention education. All incoming students are required to attend a sexual assault presentation by the end of their first semester. UC Berkeley calls it “EmpowerU.” Illinois calls it “First Year Campus Acquaintance Rape Education Program.”</p> <p>At Berkeley, workshops are held throughout the semester; the bulk are scheduled for the beginning of the semester, so students can get them out of the way quickly.</p> <p>The university could implement something similar, where SARPP holds mandatory sessions throughout the semester. The university would need to create some sort of accountability system – likely through tracking UID’s – to ensure every student completes the requirement by his/her first semester.</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	<p>Before submitting a senate proposal, student leaders attempted to establish a program like this in both the orientation office and UNIV100. The head of orientation and UNIV100 for over 30 years, Gerry Strumpf, has been unwilling to provide more than a two-minute video during orientation about sexual assault. We need much more than that to truly keep students safe.</p> <p>High-profile rape cases are happening all over the nation, from state universities (Montana) to elite private colleges (Amherst.) Does UMD require a case like this to finally act? If a high-profile sexual assault does ever happen on this campus, the university won’t be caught scrambling to establish a mandatory program like this.</p> <p>SARPP is 100% supportive of this policy. Fatima Burns and Stephanie Rivero, SARPP coordinator and assistant coordinator, helped draft this policy and have even begun planning how the program will change if this policy is in place.</p> <p>In 2009, the Campus Affairs Committee held its annual safety forum solely on the topic of sexual assault. Although the effort was a good way to raise awareness, only 50 people attended and no policy changes were recommended after the initiative — even though the forum panelists clearly expressed urgency toward this issue. According to the report, one of the panelists from the Office of</p>

	<p>Fraternity/Sorority Life said, “WE’RE READY TO TRY ANYTHING. WE NEED TO DO SO MUCH MORE TO MAKE SURE OUR COMMUNITY IS SAFE FOR ALL OF OUR MEMBERS.” It’s time for the senate to — once and for all — address the issue of sexual assault in a way that will concretely bring about change and protect students.</p>
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The 2012 Campus Affairs Safety report can be found here:
<http://www.senate.umd.edu/sms/index.cfm?event=publicViewBill&billId=134&context=s>.

Please send your completed form and any supporting documents to senate-admin@umd.edu or University of Maryland Senate Office, 1100 Marie Mount Hall, College Park, MD 20742-7541. Thank you!