

Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault Annual Report 2016-2017

The Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault (PACSA) is one of several Columbia University initiatives to address gender-based misconduct and is charged with advising the president on issues related to the prevention of and response to gender-based misconduct, including sexual assault. The Committee continually works with partners and experts across the University to evaluate policies and procedures and solicit feedback from the Columbia community with the goal of eliminating sexual assault and other forms of gender-based misconduct from our community.

Membership

The Committee is comprised of faculty, staff, and students from both the Morningside and CUMC campuses. This year, several new members were appointed to the Committee by President Bollinger; their two-year terms will conclude in spring 2018. A full membership roster is attached.

Dennis Mitchell, Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion; Associate Professor of Dental Medicine (Community Health and Periodontics) at the Columbia University Medical Center; and Senior Associate Dean for Diversity, College of Dental Medicine
Professor Mitchell serves as the co-chair for the Committee.

Melanie Bernitz, Associate Vice President/Medical Director, Columbia Health Services; Assistant Clinical Professor (in the Center for Family and Community Medicine)

Marjy Fisher, Associate Vice President & Title IX Coordinator

Marj Berman, Student, Public Health

Andrea Crow, Student, Arts and Sciences

Andrea Crow resigned her appointment during the spring 2017 semester.

2016-17 Discussions

Over the course of the 2016-17 academic year, the Committee was briefed by partners across the University about services and programs that support gender-based misconduct prevention and address the University's response to gender-based misconduct.

Specifically, the Committee discussed following topics:

- Sexual Violence Response programs and services
- Gender-Based Misconduct Office's services
- Policy updates and changes
- Counseling and Psychological Services' survivor-specific programs
- Gender-based Misconduct Prevention Task Force

- Pre-Arrival Tutorials (Welcome to Columbia and Haven)
- Sexual Respect and Community Citizenship Initiative

Recommendations

Based on these briefings and Committee members' personal experience and expertise, the Committee recommends that partners across the University **continue to connect prevention work with community engagement** and **continue to consider how to engage more students in prevention efforts**. Many offices and departments are coordinating to provide extensive training, education, and services to Columbia students, faculty, and staff. These efforts will be enhanced by increased student engagement and involvement such as through peer education programs, broadened participation, and greater engagement in these conversations.