

Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault Annual Report (2022-2023)

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 was created in 2006 through a Senate resolution and 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 President appoints all members of the committee. The 2022-2023 Committee comprises faculty, staff, and students from across Columbia's campuses. Claude Ann Mellins and Dennis A. Mitchell served as co-chairs. Committee members are appointed to two-year terms, which may be extended by the President.

Committee Members:

Chairs

- Claude Ann Mellins (Professor of Medical Psychology (in Psychiatry and Sociomedical Sciences) at CUIMC))
- Dennis A. Mitchell (Executive Vice President, University Life)

Term-limited Members

- Jeanine D'Armiento (Chair, University Senate; Professor of Medicine (in Anesthesiology and Physiology and Cellular Biophysics))
- Valeria Contreras (Student, School of the Arts)
- Richard J. Eichler (Associate Vice President, Counseling and Psychological Services, Columbia Health)
- Marcy Ferdtschneider (Assistant Vice President, Student Health on Haven; Assistant Professor of Medicine at CUIMC)
- Marjory D. Fisher (Associate Vice President & Title IX Coordinator)
- Joseph Greenwell (Vice President of Student Affairs, University Life)
- Elliot Hueske (Student, Columbia College)
- Ian Rottenberg (Dean of Religious Life)
- Elias Tzok-Pacheco (Student, Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science)
- Colleen Walsh (Senior Director, Title IX)

Ex-Officio Members

- Donna Fenn (Deputy General Counsel)
- La'Shawn Rivera (Senior Executive Director, Sexual Violence Response, Columbia Health)

Discussions

During the 2022-23 academic year, the committee met twice, and partners across the University briefed the Committee on updates to the Title IX Regulations, services and programs that support gender-based misconduct prevention, and the University's process for addressing incidents of gender-based misconduct. Specifically, the Committee discussed the following topics in the 2022-2023 academic year:

- 2022 Climate Survey of Student Athletes Outcomes
- Title IX Updates - Including New Regulations, University Updates, and Trends
- Key Takeaways – The Gender-Based Misconduct Prevention and Response 2021-2022 Annual Report
- Awareness Months
- SVR Frameworks and Principles of Prevention

Recommendations

The Committee recommends the following related to the discussions and work from the 2022-2023 academic year:

1. To consider impacts of gender-based misconduct on populations that may be at higher risk, including athletes.
2. To consider reducing barriers to reporting of gender-based misconduct.
3. To create a stakeholder panel around new Title IX regulations.
4. To utilize lessons learned from COVID on web-based engagement around prevention education.