

# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

UNIVERSITY SENATE  
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### Background to the PACSA Resolution

Over the past several months, there has been a broad campus discussion on Columbia's policies and procedures on sexual assault. Some of these concerns were highlighted in the Student Affairs Committee's statement on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The President also released a public statement on January 29<sup>th</sup>. And on March 13<sup>th</sup>, the University conducted a Town Hall to provide an explanation of the current policies and procedures and to hear student concerns.

The Student Affairs Committee has meanwhile been doing ongoing work related to policy and education on the topic including:

- Meetings with Executive Vice President Joe Ienuso, Student Services for Gender-Based and Sexual Misconduct (SSGBSM), and Office of Student Affairs  
Student representatives have been meeting with the aforementioned departments on a regular basis to enact policy changes. These meetings have already resulted in a number of revisions: (a) the presence of two investigators when testimonies are transcribed, (b) a letter detailing rights for both complainants and respondents, (c) a resource review of both the Rape-Crisis Center and Sexual Violence Response, (d) a review of consent education policy across both undergraduate and graduate schools, and (e) a search for a revised appeals process.
- Formation of a Senate subcommittee  
The Senate's Executive Committee, SAC, and the Commission on the Status of Women are currently working together to form a subcommittee, which will review current policies and lead the enactment of any necessary reforms.
- Data Release  
SAC is working closely with the Provost's Office to coordinate the release of data pertinent to students, and has submitted a proposal for the same.

The attached resolution to amend the Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault (PACSA) is an important part of addressing student concerns to streamline the review of current sexual assault policy and to bring together an empowered group of administrators, faculty and students. And student interests aside, reforming PACSA should also serve all Columbia constituencies and tie into a broader conversation on the University-wide nature of sexual assault policies.

The key points of the resolution include: (a) streamlining its membership to 13 persons, (b) adding faculty with relevant expertise to the committee, and (c) increasing student representation.

Important documents and dates:

- [Blue and White Article highlighting Sexual Assault Concerns](#) (1/23/14)
- [Student Affairs Committee Statement on Sexual Assault Adjudication Process](#) (1/26/14)
- [Message from President Bollinger](#) (1/29/14)
- [March 13 Town Hall Transcript](#) (3/13/14)

Additional documents:

- [2006 Senate Resolution to establish the Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault](#) (2/24/2006)
- [Student Proposals To Fight Sexual Violence And Rape Culture at Columbia](#) (2/17/2014)