

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

UNIVERSITY SENATE  
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

*For Immediate Release*

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**Statement on Sexual Assault Adjudication Process**

NEW YORK, January 26, 2014 – The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) of the University Senate, representing the students of Columbia University’s twenty schools and affiliates, calls upon Columbia to clarify and initiate any needed reforms to the adjudication process within the Office of Gender-Based Misconduct. Many students have expressed a lack of confidence in Columbia’s approach to handling allegations of gender-based misconduct and violence. SAC feels that it is crucial to restore confidence in the system given that the only other form of recourse for students is to turn to law enforcement—or remain silent.

Over the past several months, members of SAC have been working with other campus organizations to address concerns surrounding Columbia’s policies and procedures on sexual assault, many of which have been highlighted by recent press coverage in Bwog and the Columbia Daily Spectator. This collaborative process has included a discussion with a subcommittee of the President’s Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault (PACSA), which includes two student members, one of whom is a member of SAC.

In light of these concerns, we call for the following:

1. A statement by the President on the University’s position and priorities regarding sexual misconduct, harassment, and retaliation;
2. A town hall at which students, administrators, and other stakeholders can engage in public conversation;
3. The release of aggregate, anonymous data related to sexual assaults and other gender-based misconduct on campus; and
4. Making PACSA’s proceedings and membership more transparent and including greater student representation.

Sincerely,

Matthew Chou, CC, Co-Chair  
Akshay Shah, SEAS, Co-Chair  
Alex Ma, ARTS  
Barry Goldenberg, TC  
Bruce Youm, SPH  
Damani Aaron, BUS  
Rashad Palmer, GSAPP  
Diana Gutierrez, SSW  
Evan Plous, GSAS/SS  
Foster Pinkney, UTS

Jared Odessky, CC  
Justin Carter, GS  
Kalliope Kyriakides, BC  
Marc Heinrich, CC  
Mary Wojick, JOUR  
Moneek Madra, GSAS/NS  
Pieter Vanhove, GSAS/HUM  
Selim Lika, SCE  
Shreevardhan Sinha, SIPA  
Venkatesh Hariharan, SEAS

Victor Kagan, CDM  
William Zvara, BUS  
Zahrah Taufique, P&S  
Zila Acosta, LAW  
Amna Pervez, Chief of Staff  
Hector Polanco, Staff  
Ramis Wadood, Staff  
Saaketh Pradhan, Staff  
Zander Daniel, Staff

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### **About the Columbia University Senate**

The Student Affairs Committee of the Columbia University Senate comprises the 25 elected student senators and observers within the Columbia University Senate. The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) is the only body that comprehensively represents all 36,000 students across all 20 constituent and affiliated schools of Columbia University.

The Columbia University Senate is the university-wide legislative and policy-making body at Columbia University. It is mandated to consider all matters affecting more than one school, or those of the entire university. The Senate is composed of 108 elected and appointed members, representing faculty, students, administration, staff, alumni, and research officers. The Senate was established in 1969. More information about the Senate is available at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/senate/>.