

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH

A PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SEXUAL ASSAULT

BE IT RESOLVED that in keeping with the recommendations of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct, the University Senate ask the president to establish a standing Advisory Council on Sexual Assault consisting of administrators, faculty and student members, including at least one student Senator, which shall be charged with the following duties:

1. Enact all recommendations of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct that are adopted by the University Senate.
2. Reevaluate from time to time existing policies and procedures regarding sexual violence in the Columbia University community and present recommendations for revisions to the University Senate for approval.
3. Collaborate with campus offices and organizations to expand and improve education, outreach and prevention in the area of sexual assault.
4. Collaborate with campus security and health facilities to gather accurate information on the incidence of sexual assault in the Columbia University community.
5. Oversee the selection of hearing panelists for the disciplinary procedure and receive the reports of the hearing panel in order to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the process.
6. Submit an annual report to the President and to the Senate about ongoing campus-wide work to address the issue of sexual violence.
7. Ensure that all campus officials required to report under the Clery Act be trained as first responders and receive appropriate training on the online reporting mechanism.

Proponent: Executive Committee

University Senate

Proposed: February 24, 2006

Adopted: *By voice vote, as amended, without dissent*

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT

A NEW POLICY STATEMENT AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

BE IT RESOLVED that in keeping with the recommendations of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct, the University Senate approve the new Policy Statement Against Sexual Assault (attached)

Proponent: Executive Committee

Recommended new statement:

Columbia University Policy Statement against Sexual Assault

Columbia University, Barnard College and Teachers' College do not tolerate sexual assault of any degree and kind. The University Community is committed to fostering a healthy and safe environment in which every member of the community can realize her or his fullest potential.

Sexual assault is non-consensual, intentional physical contact of a sexual nature, such as unwelcome physical contact with a person's genitals, buttocks or breasts. Sexual Assault occurs when the act is committed either by a) physical force, violence, threat or intimidation; b) ignoring the objections of another person; c) causing another's intoxication or impairment through the use of drugs or alcohol; or d) taking advantage of another person's incapacitation, state of intimidation, helplessness, or other inability to consent.

Sexual Assault is a serious problem on college campuses throughout the country. To counteract this problem, the University provides educational and preventive programs, resources for individuals dealing with sexual assault, and accessible methods of complaint resolution.

The University encourages students who believe that they have been subjected to non-consensual physical contact of a sexual nature to report these incidents, whether or not they choose to file an official complaint. Reporting enables the University to protect the complainant and the larger community by taking appropriate actions.

In recognition of the sensitive nature of sexual assault cases, and the difficulties inherent in reporting, the University provides students with three options in seeking recourse. To fall within the jurisdiction of the University's administrative procedures, the alleged sexual assault must be committed by a student on a student.

A student may choose to initiate disciplinary proceedings through Dean's Discipline, in which case s/he will file a complaint with the dean of the school of the accused student. Alternatively, a student may choose to file a complaint using the University-wide Disciplinary Procedure. This procedure, established specifically to address allegations of sexual assault, ensures that the members of the committee hearing the case will be specially trained in adjudicating sexual assault. A student who has been found to have violated this policy may be subject to sanctions, including, but not limited to, reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension and dismissal. A student may also be barred from certain University facilities or activities, or asked to undergo an educational program. Penalties are imposed by the Dean of the student's school in accord with University rules. The disciplinary authority of the University is vested by the Trustees in the President and the Provost and, subject to their reserved powers, in the Dean of each faculty. A student may seek to pursue a third option, the mediation of sexual assault cases, either through the University's Ombuds Office or through the Office of Disciplinary Procedures for Sexual Assault.

University Senate

Proposed: February 24, 2006

Adopted Resubmitted on
March 31, 2006, adopted
by voice vote, without
dissent, but with
two abstentions

**RESOLUTION TO REVISE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES
FOR CHARGES OF STUDENT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

BE IT RESOLVED that in keeping with the recommendations of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct, the University Senate approve a revised set of disciplinary procedures (pp. 21-28 of the Task Force report) for charges of student sexual misconduct.

Proponent: Executive Committee