

Sexual Misconduct Action Plan
PSG SAFER Ad Hoc Committee 2021-2022



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Introduction/Mission Statement

The SAFER Ad Hoc committee was introduced in 2019 to Purdue Student Government and has since been aiming to help to educate, inform, and support students on the issue of sexual misconduct. While this committee got its start in events, the more we talked to students, the more we saw a need for a larger systemic change at Purdue, which we have presented in this action plan.

The action plan in itself is divided into five main goals:

1. Transparency: Developing a More Transparent, Accessible System to Address Sexual Misconduct
2. Destigmatization: Discussing and Destigmatizing the Issues of Sexual Misconduct on Campus
3. Student Education: Educating Students About Sexual Misconduct and the Criteria for Consent
4. Resources: Creating and Committing to Resources on Campus
5. Support: Offering Support to Survivors of Sexual Misconduct

Behind these goals is the overall sentiment and mission to create an environment on campus where students feel safe both physically and mentally from any form of sexual assault and misconduct, and that they will feel supported by the campus community and Purdue administration.

Goal 1: Transparency

Developing a More Transparent, Accessible System to Address Sexual Misconduct

Issue Addressed: Transparency is key for an effective response to difficult issues such as sexual misconduct. While there is information about harassment in current Purdue documentation, the current available information on expectations for students in regards to sexual misconduct is lacking. To improve this, Purdue Student Government urges that the following steps be taken to improve communication between students and administration to create an effective response to sexual assault and harassment. (add statistics)

Strategy 1-A: Clarifying expectations for student conduct and university response

Having clear expectations of how our students should behave is important to see the correct behavior. Defining consent, sexual misconduct, and harassment must be made clear for the purposes of consistency and transparency. By addressing the below mentioned parts of the Title IX Anti-Harassment policy and Student Code of Conduct, a clearer vision of how Purdue looks to handle sexual misconduct will be reached and students will feel more protected, and a version of which we must not stray from for the safety of our students.

1-A.i. A university provided definition of informed consent, sexual assault, and harassment

- Consent by the university is defined as “affirmative, clear communication given by words or actions that shows an active, knowing and voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed upon activity”.¹

1-A.ii. Include Sexual misconduct information and definitions to the student code of conduct

- While in the Title IX policies these are clearly laid out, within the Purdue University Student Code of Conduct and Purdue University Bill of Student Rights there is no mention to sexual misconduct beyond the following: “Violations of the University’s Anti-Harassment policy and of the University’s Equal Opportunity, Equal Access and Affirmative Action policy, as well as the investigation and resolution of complaints made under those policies, are governed exclusively by the Procedures for Resolving Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment and not by these regulations” found in the section Regulations Governing Student Conduct, Disciplinary Proceedings, and Appeals, Section B student Conduct, Subsection 1 General²
- While it is understandable that only the Harassment policy rules would be applicable in the procedures for resolving complaints, in order to make policy more transparent and understandable to students, it makes most sense to have an abridged version of the policy mentioned in the Student Code of Conduct, as to urge students the importance and severity sexual misconduct is.
- This would best fit under section B Student Conduct, Subsection 2 Conduct Subject to

¹ Title IX Harassment III.C.4

<https://www.purdue.edu/policies/ethics/iijc4.html>

² Purdue Statement of Integrity and Code of Conduct

<https://catalog.purdue.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=15921#statement-of-integrity-and-code-of-conduct>

Disciplinary Sanctions. Beyond urging students of the severity of sexual misconduct, this would be an affirmation to survivors that this issue is one that the university takes extremely seriously.

1-A.iii. Clarified university response and revised student support during this response

- While the Harassment and Discrimination Complaint Resolution Process is set and explained in detail, there are some issues that come with it when looking from the lens of sexual misconduct.
- The statute of limitations for a complaint to be filed is within 120 days of an incident's occurrence. While four months may seem like a long time, the amount of time that a survivor takes to process their assault varies from person to person, meaning that for some 120 days may be plenty but for others that is not enough time. We urge that the university consider extending the 120 day policy for complaints to allow more leniency in these cases.
- The "respondent" to any complaint will see the name of the complaint "unless the Vice President for Ethics and Compliance agrees to a Complainant's request for anonymity".³ The FAQ page concerning requests for anonymity is no longer available, and we request that this policy be made transparent to students.
- During the investigation of a complaint, two investigators are assigned to conduct the investigation. It has been suggested by students during tabling that survivors be provided a "case manager" or single person to help be their advocate and walk them through this university investigation that can be intimidating.
- While students are allowed to bring a support person to the meetings, this person is in no way allowed to speak on their behalf. It would be helpful for students to have an advocate that they know is on their side in this case. This could be true for both the complainant and the respondent during the investigation.

Strategy 1-B: Creating a platform for student reporting to the university

Accessibility and understandability are central to effective university policy. Platforms are essential to providing important reporting tools and policy resources to students. These websites need to be available and disseminated to all members of the Purdue community. Updates and edits to Purdue's current websites are needed to better address sexual misconduct.

1-B.i. Update the current harassment website to be more inclusive to sexual harassment and assault specifically

- As outlined earlier in this section, the consolidation and centralization of information concerning university policy, definitions, and procedures surrounding sexual misconduct is essential to improving the reporting and processing at Purdue.
- Having a platform that organizes and presents this data in an easy and digestible way is central to students finding this information when needed.
- Sexual assault issues ought to be more prominently and clearly presented on an updated website indicating Purdue's dedication to these issues.

1-B.ii. Improve the understandability of Purdue's policies

- As the American Association of University Professors urges "Policies and procedures must be clear, readable, and accurate; information must be widely disseminated and readily accessible to all members of the campus community; and materials must include descriptive (operational)

³ Complaint Resolution Process- Harassment and Discrimination
<https://www.purdue.edu/harassment/harassment/complaints.php>

definitions of sexual assault, rape, and other forms of sexual violence, explaining why these actions violate acceptable standards of conduct and, in some cases, constitute criminal offenses. Potential campus and criminal penalties should be made equally clear.”⁴

- To ensure this occurs, Purdue ought to create another section under the Office of the Dean of Students within the resources tab which would include all the information outlined previously.
- Additionally, the official policy report should be included with a more simplified version present to ensure ease of understanding.

Strategy 1-C: Eliminating hearsay and confusion in regards to sexual assault through increased email statements and student press releases

By having a clear system of communication when combatting instances of sexual assault on campus, confusion and hearsay among students will decline. Students should be updated on instances of sexual misconduct in the same manner as shootings and muggings that happen close to or on campus. Providing follow-ups in these instances will give all Purdue students access to information that will allow them to take measures necessary to ensure their campus safety. Also, by demonstrating clear communication between different organizations on campus where these situations may occur, more efficient steps can be taken to ensure the safety of all students.

1-C.i. The university should update students on situations regarding sexual assaults on campus similar to what currently is done with shootings and muggings

- Similar to how texts and emails are put out when there are instances of shootings or muggings near campus, the university should put out texts and/or emails with updates regarding sexual assaults and the disciplinary actions that follow
- According to statistics 20% of sexual assault victims choose not to report because they fear retaliation⁵. If the Purdue community is provided with updates on the disciplinary actions that follow an incident of sexual assault, victims will be more likely to report with the understanding that their university will support them—eliminating the fear of receiving backlash for speaking up
- In a study done by the Capital News Service of the University of Maryland, they found that... “among the 25 largest public universities, very few were willing to make public data about sexual assault reports, how many investigations they conducted annually and how many cases resulted in disciplinary actions or convictions”⁶

1-C.ii. The university should work with panhellenic councils (RISK) about transparency of incidents of sexual assault that may occur at a Greek life event

- In instances of sexual assault relating to social functions put on by the various fraternities or sororities on campus, the university can coordinate with the panhellenic council on

⁴ Campus Sexual Assault: Suggested Policies and Procedures

<https://www.aaup.org/report/campus-sexual-assault-suggested-policies-and-procedures>

⁵ The Criminal Justice System: Statistics

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>

⁶ Despite #MeToo era, most top colleges share little on sexual assault

<https://www.capitalgazette.com/news/ac-cn-cns-sexual-assaults-20190817-vocwixliuvanjotl3lx2dekz74-story.html>

their risk management of these social functions where sexual assault may occur. This may also help to eliminate hearsay in regards to the different Greek life houses on campus

Goal 2: Destigmatization

Discussing and Destigmatizing the Issue of Sexual Assault on Campus

Issue Addressed: Sexual assault and the discussion around it is often seen as taboo, as is sexuality in general. As a result, victims can be less likely to report or seek help for their assault. According to RAINN, out of 1000 rapes, only 310 (31%) are reported to the police, only 50 of which lead to arrest, and only 25 perpetrators are incarcerated⁷. Among female college students, this statistic lowers even more. Only 20% of female students aged 18-24 report sexual violence to law enforcement, citing reasons such as fear of reprisal, thinking it is a personal matter, believing law enforcement will do nothing, and more⁸. The CDC reports that sexual violence can be prevented by discussing topics like sexual behavior, sexual communication, respect, and consent to instill healthy sexuality⁹. In this goal, we will form a plan to destigmatize talking about this topic as addressed below.

Strategy 2-A: Purdue Administration makes policies more clear and discusses sexual assault more frequently to open the doors to student discussion.

This can be carried out by providing students with resources and areas to educate themselves on sexual assault and the steps Purdue is taking to combat this issue on campus. These resources may include more easily accessible information on events regarding information on sexual assault, resources for sexual assault victims provided by professors at the beginning of the year, and addressing sexual assault clearly in the student handbook. More information on specific Purdue policy is further discussed in the transparency section.

2-A.i. Purdue Administration will send out bi-weekly emails on the topic

- These emails can contain information related to if there have been incidents related to sexual assault recently, the action taken against the perpetrator, and safety tips. Names and identifying information should all be kept anonymous for victim safety and comfort, but general information related to this should be something the student body can hear about. There have been prior incidents that the students were never updated on, making them wonder if Purdue had taken action or been helpful.

1-A.ii. Purdue writing out procedures on the bottom of syllabus

- Each professor's syllabus at Purdue has helpful information about various resources such as disability aid, COVID-19 guidelines, mental health resources, and more. Professors often read these out to the class within the first week. If we included campus resources related to sexual assault and who to report to, it would start a dialogue and assure students in the beginning of their time at Purdue that this is being taken seriously and help to make them feel comfortable.

1-A.iii. Address sexual assault in the student handbook

- Sexual assault goes unaddressed in the student handbook while non-sexual assaults related to other violence is. This is a glaring gap in assuring student safety. The lack of mentioning it in the handbook also makes it seem like a taboo topic not to be discussed which leads to a

⁷ The Criminal Justice System: Statistics

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>

⁸ Campus Sexual Violence: Statistics

<https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

⁹ Sexual Risk Behaviors Can Lead to HIV, STDs, and Teen Pregnancy

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/sexualbehaviors/index.htm>

dangerous mindset of stigmatizing this issue. As stated above, underreporting is already rampant on college campuses as well. This is mentioned in more detail in the Transparency section.

Strategy 2-B: SAFER and campus organization led events

By having student led organizations, such as SAFER and any others that would be interested, talk to other students on the topic of sexual assault, it will gradually make it seem less frightening. To accomplish this, organizations will hold different events as listed below. This will also include professionals periodically to better inform the student body and destigmatize further.

1-B.i. SAFER led information booths

- Having SAFER, a group of students, informing and engaging with other students in open discourse related to sexual topics will make it more casual to discuss sexuality on campus, further destigmatizing it.

1-B.ii. Annual Consent Carnival with educational focus

- The Consent Carnival delves into what consent is and how significant it is to always make sure you have it before engaging in sexual activities. SAFER makes this topic less frightening to talk about by incorporating it into trivia games and including prizes. This once again works to make the campus more open and destigmatize sexuality and sexual assault.

1-B.iii. Any other organizations that would like to hold events, such as University Residences, PSG, CARE, etc.

- With more organizations participating in these events other than SAFER will make the destigmatizing more widespread and effective.

1-B.iv. Obtain professional guest speakers and professionals to answer a panel questionnaire

- While students talking to students works to make a more casual environment around sexuality and sexual assault, there is a limit to how much students know. Inviting professionals to talk will give a stronger backbone to the facts being disseminated as they would directly study the topics they are discussing.

Goal 3: Student Education

Educating Students About Sexual Misconduct and the Criteria for Consent

Issue Addressed: Providing clear information and education regarding sexual misconduct helps to foster a safer environment and aid survivors in finding resources in the aftermath of an incident.¹⁰ Although Purdue provides some educational training and resources¹¹ we propose providing additional educational training and events to further confirm and educate students on the importance of sexual assault prevention and Purdue’s safety measures regarding it.

Strategy 3-A: Requiring testing, comprehension, and commitment to sexual misconduct and consent education.

In requiring a testing process we can not only examine where the students are at with their knowledge about sexual misconduct, but we can help facilitate their better understanding and eventual comprehension with the topic to create a safer and better educated Purdue.

1-A.i. Written student affirmation/contract for upholding Purdue’s standards for consent and sexual misconduct.

- This would consist of a signature by every Purdue student acknowledging Purdue’s standards and codes regarding sexual misconduct. It would be included within the testing module, and an example of the affirmation is listed below.
 - a.) “I, _____, consent to follow Purdue University’s code of conduct regarding consent and sexual misconduct as a student at Purdue, and I promise to uphold Purdue’s standards regarding sexual misconduct or face appropriate disciplinary action.” [Signature of Student]

1-A.ii. Acknowledgment of Purdue’s current policies¹² and consequences¹³ for sexual misconduct.

- Purdue’s current policies and consequences for sexual misconduct will be included in the testing course, and the students’ written affirmation will also be required to acknowledge Purdue’s standards regarding sexual assault.

1-A.iii. Passing consent and sexual misconduct education course at the beginning of each academic year.

- This education course would include information regarding sexual misconduct and consent that students will be required to pass with a series of questions at the beginning of each academic year. This course will be built off of the current training course included in Purdue’s Pre-Arrival Homework, but will, instead, be a recurring event for students annually and will be a briefer version of this training. Although Title IX aims to promote education by “offer[ing] education

¹⁰ Bystander Education Training for Campus Sexual Assault Prevention: An Initial Meta-Analysis by Jennifer Katz, PhD at <https://connect.springerpub.com/content/sgrvv/28/6/1054>

¹¹ Ethics and Compliance Education Training
<https://www.purdue.edu/ethics/ed-training/home.php>

¹² Purdue University Title IX Harassment, Interim (III.C.4) at
<https://www.purdue.edu/policies/ethics/iic4.html>

¹³ Regulations Governing Student Conduct, Disciplinary Proceedings, and Appeals
<https://catalog.purdue.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=15921>

and primary prevention, risk reduction and awareness programs”¹⁴ this training is brief and only conducted once; it does not have the lasting effect that a sexual assault training should have for students, nor does it acknowledge Purdue’s guidelines concerning sexual assault. Some potential sample questions are listed below.

a.) What is consent as defined by RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network)?

- A. **acquiescence or compliance [with the proposition of another]**
- B. one verbal “yes”
- C. the lack of objection
- D. There is a lack of consent if a person engages in a sexual act with another person by forcible compulsion or with a person who is incapable of consent because he or she is physically helpless, mentally defective or mentally incapacitated, or because of a victim’s age

b.) True or False? Indiana State Law does not have a definition for consent but defines forced action, incoherence and disability in the case of sexual assault.

- E. **True**
- F. False

Strategy 3-B: Holding SAFER, Purdue PD, OSSR, and Purdue University sponsored events that educate students and staff about sexual misconduct and consent.

The explanation and instruction on the topic of sexual misconduct and consent through accessible events will foster a safer campus community¹⁵. These events will not only inform students, but dissuade and rebuke sexual misconduct as they enlighten the student body on the consequences¹⁶ of such heinous actions.

1-B.i. Host seminars both digitally and in-person.

- Instructional and discussion based seminars that both educate and address the questions of the student body

1-B.ii. Create larger scale events as extensions of BGR, student orientation, and each new semester’s welcoming practices for education and to provide an interface for student/administration interaction.

- Events such as question and answer sessions, and student/administration interaction facilitated by online and in person programs that could be extensions of existing infrastructure like CAPS or their own new departments

1-B.iii. Holding a booth at the club advertising event in the CoRec.

- This booth would provide information about our committee but primarily would connect students to resources and education options

¹⁴ Title IX Harassment, Interim III.C.4

<https://www.purdue.edu/policies/ethics/iic4.html>

¹⁵ The Effect of Sexual Education on Sexual Assault Prevention

https://www.womennc.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2015-WomenNC-ResearchPaper-Effects-ofSexEduc-on-PreventSexAssault_Dana-Raphael0415.pdf

¹⁶ Effects of Sexual Violence

<https://www.rainn.org/effects-sexual-violence>

Goal 4: Resources

Resources and Commitment to Resources

Issue Addressed: By talking to the Purdue student body at a tabling event, the most salient result was that the students do not know what the resources are at Purdue, where to find them, or how to get help if something were to happen¹⁷. The following strategies plan to solve this issue to better inform the students and reduce the prevalence of sexual assault and misconduct by engaging campus leadership and marketing the resources to students socially and institutionally¹⁸.

Strategy 4-A: Consolidation of Purdue and SAFER resources to improve accessibility, and transparency

In order for the Purdue student body to always be prepared and know what to do in the terrible event of themselves or one of their friends being sexually assaulted, it is imperative to have tangible resources at the ready. This will enable them to quickly act and become safer once again. This can be carried out by

1-A.i. Provide SAFER resource cards¹⁹ at student events, BGR, and around campus for students at all times; also provide a resource liaison for all sexual assault and misconduct seminars/lectures/events that SAFER is involved with

- These resource cards are small (the size of a normal business card) and can be kept in one's wallet, backpack, purse, or pocket. This resource would have numbers to call in case of an assault, reassuring students of their options.

1-A.ii. Purdue will make a streamlined website where all of this is located under a Purdue domain, something resembling the crime log or course catalogs.

- At tabling events, many students were not aware of the resources Purdue provides related to sexual assault. While researching this topic, the SAFER Committee also had difficulty finding this information. Purdue should make one website that encompasses all of those resources so that students do not have to struggle to find them. If someone has been assaulted, they have been traumatized already and are not likely to put effort into conducting this research. Thus, under-reporting may persist to be an issue.

1-A.iii. Provide a link tree with sexual assault resources on social media accounts

- After Purdue makes the streamlined resource, SAFER and any campus organization (such as PSG, the RA association, and more) that want to participate will provide a link tree of sexual assault resources on their social media accounts. Having these on social media accounts that Purdue students frequent will make it even more accessible so that students feel safe and know what to do in case of such an event.

1-A.iv. Purdue support for survivors and/or those seeking help through existing institutions like CAPS and PUSH.

- Survivor mental health often suffers after traumatic events, such as an assault. Mental Health America details how survivors are at higher risk of developing PTSD, depression, anxiety,

¹⁷ Tabling results available upon request

¹⁸ Sexual Violence on Campus: Strategies for Prevention by the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/campusvprevention.pdf>

¹⁹ The SAFER Resource Card https://www.canva.com/design/DAETJK8WisE/flANO-9WRzhCx20VbWu4g/view?utm_content=DAETJK8WisE&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

substance use disorders, and eating disorders²⁰. By Purdue offering support for survivors as a resource, it speaks volumes to the college's level of care for its student body/health.

- Potential ways to provide support include but are not limited to training therapists, hiring more specialized therapists or counselors, and/or having group-led discussions.

Strategy 4-B: One-on-one interface with the SAFER team and Purdue officials

In having one on one interface with the body of SAFER, Purdue students can have the opportunity to inquire about resources, ask pertinent questions, and get help from people rather than impersonal “self-help” guides or automated messaging. In providing this service we can better attend to the student populus while fostering a community and campus built on openness and a prioritization of safety.

1-B.i. Opening the SAFER Instagram Direct Message to students so that we may participate actively in directing students to the proper resources, and answering time sensitive questions

- This would be a quick resource for students who need immediate help. SAFER's Instagram is being monitored by the Social Media Chair at all times, making the Direct Messages an ideal place to be directed to the best resources in an efficient time.

1-B.ii. Providing Google Surveys to assess weaknesses in our programs and resources, as well as to provide a space for student feedback

- SAFER has held tabling events to see how the student body feels related to how Purdue is handling sexuality and sexual assault before, but there have been no formal surveys conducted. By using Google Surveys, the SAFER Ad Hoc committee and Purdue Student Government can strive toward always improving by addressing the issues that students provide feedback on.

1-B.iii. SAFER holding a semesterly event discussing resources directly with students, such as a seminar or tabling event

- The semesterly event would be a direct, face-to-face resource for SAFER to answer student questions.

1-B.iv. Having a sexual assault counselor or related group therapy through CAPS

- Both of these options would help the survivors know that they are not alone and can get the support they need. Even if the assault does not occur on Purdue campus, having this resource for students here will provide a safe space for them to get help for their previous traumas and assaults.

Strategy 4-C: Clear advertisement and display of programs and resources

By clearly showing and displaying the resources Purdue has available (such as CARE, various call numbers, who to call in the case of what kind of emergency when assaulted), the students will not only know what to do in the case of being sexually assaulted, but it will also help the students to feel more reassured by knowing these are in place, even if they do not need to use them. This can be carried out by

1-C.i. Hang posters around Purdue campus of the resources available in clear to view areas.

²⁰ Sexual Assault and Mental Health

<https://mhanational.org/sexual-assault-and-mental-health>

- Posters can be hung around academic buildings, on signboards of residence halls, the dining halls, etc. Currently, the only location that has resource signs are the restrooms sporadically while on campus. Most students will only give it a cursory glance while washing hands. By making this knowledge more widespread, students will better know their resources.

1-C.ii. Post resources to SAFER social media, PSG social media, and Purdue social media at large, to better inform students.

- The students are currently poorly informed on what to do if an assault occurs to them or a friend. In the age of technology, social media would be a great place to better advertise these resources.

1-C.iii. Have resources listed at bottom of syllabus

- By including sexual assault resources that Purdue provides at the bottom of the syllabus, it would inspire professors to go over it at the beginning of each semester. This would ensure that students hear these resources early in their Purdue life, so that they are informed from the start.

Goal 5: Support

Offering Support to Survivors of Sexual Misconduct

Issue Addressed: Purdue currently provides support through the Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education by having advocates available to provide assistance in numerous manners²¹; however, there are some gaps in the university's provision of providing support to survivors of sexual assault. The strategies discussed below are intended to fill in any gaps in providing survivors with support in the aftermath of such events, especially as victims tend to struggle with turbulent emotions and experiences following sexual assault/harrasment.²²

Strategy 5-A: Delineating methods and guidance for survivors who wish to take matters into the justice system.

By providing clear methods and legal support for survivors of sexual assault, students can receive legal justice with university support. Purdue currently provides legal services for other actions, such as leasing misconduct, and by providing legal support for sexual misconduct, this will aid victims of sexual assault and foster a safer community on campus.²³

1-A.i. Providing professionals to articulate the legal process.

- These professionals would be readily available and knowledgeable to explain the legal process to victims who are interested in reporting their incident. CARE already employs some services, but this would build upon their current services by providing professionals strictly educated in the legal department who are readily available.

1-A.ii. Resources that walk through the legal process one can take.

- Although CARE lists out available law enforcements in the area to contact, there are no resources that walk through the legal process once one contacts law enforcements. As “lack of resources”²⁴ can be a barrier for those receiving help, we propose writing out the potential process of reporting a sexual assault in the legal system, detailing broadly what would occur and the necessary steps on CARE's website.

1-A.iii. Providing legal representation.

- Purdue currently provides legal services for landlord disputes, criminal services, etc. Although, they observe a conflict of interest “when the adverse party in the matter is

²¹ Center for Advocacy, Response and Education

<https://www.purdue.edu/odos/care/index.html>

²² Effects of Sexual Assault and Rape

<https://www.joyfulheartfoundation.org/learn/sexual-assault-rape/effects-sexual-assault-and-rape>

²³ Improving Responses to Sexual Assault Survivors, Vol. 28, No. 2

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/civil-and-criminal-justice/improving-responses-to-sexual-assault-survivors.aspx>

²⁴ Understanding the Barriers to Reporting Sexual Abuse

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/protecting-children-sexual-abuse/201910/understanding-the-barriers-reporting-sexual-abuse>

a Purdue [affiliate].”²⁵ We advocate that this clause be removed for issues related to sexual misconduct of a Purdue student and that Student Legal Services provide legal services for all students seeking assistance for sexual assault regardless of the adverse party.

Strategy 5-B: Delineating methods and guidance for survivors who wish to seek university sanctions against perpetrators.

By clearly delineating and centralizing the university protocols for sanctions against sexual perpetrators, victims of sexual misconduct will be more likely to seek action against perpetrators, and it will foster a safer community on campus.²⁶

1-B.i. Centralized case manager to guide individuals through the process.

- In order to have effective case manager relationships, a centralized approach to the system that maintains a single case manager throughout the entirety of the process is essential so that the victim receives no delays in receiving help.

1-B.ii. Resources that walk through the university sanctions for sexual misconduct.

- On CARE’s website, it details how the university will provide support for victims of sexual abuse by making accommodations.²⁷ However, it details no resources or who to contact to receive these accommodations. We propose that they address who to contact about these accommodations and that the process of applying for university sanctions (i.e., who to contact, if evidence is needed) be detailed on the CARE’s site alongside this.

1-B.iii. Increase ease of communication with case managers.

- This would constitute having increased and prompt email services with respective case managers for survivors of sexual assault. This goes along with having a centralized case manager to prevent delays in victims receiving care and assistance.

Strategy 5-C: Strengthening and defining mental health services specifically for survivors of sexual assault on Purdue’s campus.

Survivors of sexual assault/harrasment sometimes seek out mental health services for the aftermath of the misconduct. By strengthening and defining these services, survivors will be more likely and willing to receive assistance and prevent future mental health crises, as experiencing a sexual assault can increase the likelihood of mental illness.²⁸

²⁵ Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.purdue.edu/odos/sls/faq/index.html>

²⁶ Barriers to Reporting Sexual Assault for Women and Men: Perspectives of College Students

http://www.middlebury.edu/media/view/240971/authentic/sable_article.pdf

²⁷ University Support

<https://www.purdue.edu/odos/care/help/options/university.html>

²⁸ Sexual Assault and Mental Health

<https://www.mhanational.org/sexual-assault-and-mental-health>

1-C.i. Make receiving mental health services for survivors of sexual assault more accessible.

- CAPS's process of receiving mental health services can often seem daunting, and those struggling tend to have a long delay in actually receiving services. We propose prioritizing victims of sexual assault in providing them with mental health assistance by providing them with individual therapy, as well as a group therapy session dealing with sexual assault.

1-C.ii. Hire more staff to provide mental health assistance in CARE and CAPS.

- This would enable more students to receive mental health services that need them, and it would encourage those who have undergone a sexual assault incidence to seek help by providing more people to assist them in the mental health process.

Strategy 6-D: Distribute more funds to CARE and sources dedicated to targeting sexual misconduct.

By distributing further funds to such organizations, these organizations will have a greater presence on campus and will be able to provide more support for sexual misconduct on Purdue's campus, dealing with the prevention and support of such.

1-D.i. Allocate existing funds in Purdue's budget towards CARE.

- This would enable more staff to be hired for CARE and put a greater emphasis on sexual abuse services on Purdue's campus.

1-D.ii. Find methods to raise money for CARE and other related organizations.

- This would entail raising money amongst students, alumni, and outside organizations by hosting donation events to raise money to promote advocacy for victims of sexual assault by providing further funds to organizations, including CARE, who advocate for victims.

Conclusion

The changes presented in this action plan provide Purdue Student Government and Purdue Administration the fundamentals to understand the current atmosphere surrounding sexual misconduct at Purdue. In order to approach this multifaceted issue productively it's important for our committee to educate and spread awareness. Our vision of a secure campus can be realized if there is more transparency, destigmatization, education, resources, and available support within Purdue as we have outlined above.

By having access to student voices, and engaging in campus events the SAFER Ad Hoc Committee realized the necessity for larger systemic change as explicated above. Our committee will continue working towards a safer future at Purdue and as students it is our responsibility to support and advocate for this change. In concurrence with our committee's steps taken forward, we anticipate a continued systemic change towards a safer Purdue. While the SAFER Committee recognizes that systemic change cannot happen without significant financial support, however, we believe that prioritizing the safety and wellbeing of the student body is more imperative.