



Temporary Meeting Location, March 6th, 2018

Sexual Violence, Assault and Harassment as it pertains to our campus and community.

A fellow opened the discussion by talking about how they did not have much of a sense of how large the problem of sexual assault was. Upon discovering that they knew individuals that were found guilty, and having friends that were affected by this, they felt emotionally mobilized. Positing to the group ways in which we can mobilize students and get them emotionally engaged rather than having them simply hear about the issue.

A fellow felt that we need to look at best practices in corporate sector and government in which sexual assault occurs. By looking at those examples, there are more intense preventive measure and swift investigation is taken seriously. Possibly because of the economic and risk management, yet the culture has changed.

Fellows touched upon the historical perspective of the issue. Noting that societal norms were different around the 1960's and that sexual assault was tolerated more than today. However, we need to pay attention and make people aware that it is a problem and that we need to encourage individuals to watch what they say and let them know it isn't permitted.

A fellow brought up the concepts of sexual assault and violence in two separate spectrums: the sports industry and the entertainment industry. The fellow discussed that we look at the issue as componentized, while we should be looking at it as a greater community issue.

On the topic of the entertainment industry, a fellow brought up the fact that if one does not want to support movies in which participants have accusations against them, there is a searchable list that provides that information.

When looking at current students preventing sexual assault, many students take it upon themselves to make their peers more aware. Clubs come in and present to other organizations and discuss sexual assault/violence and what they can do and how they can pass the information along.

A fellow brought up the point that the only mandatory training for students on the topic of sexual assault is during freshman year. Some situations (work-study, campus organizations, departments) require bystander training and harassment training each year, but the fellow believes that should happen more frequently.

Faculty and staff are required to take a refresher course on sexual harassment each year, and some fellows were unaware that students are only required to have that sort of training during orientation week.

A fellow discussed flaws in certain student organizations during sexual assault allegations. In some cases, the president of the organizations meets to discuss ramifications with the accused, which can be problematic and lead to orchestrated results. An issue that can be found in the Greek community.

On that topic of fraternities, fellows were made aware that any fraternities that belongs to the fraternity protection group require sexual assault training on a yearly basis. This brings in people from Berkeley Police

Department, Fire Department as well as campus groups specifically combating sexual assault. The fellow touched upon the fact that it doesn't seem to be working amidst the recent allegations in the Greek community.

A fellow went on to discuss that culture surrounding fraternities is fundamental to the issue of sexual assault. It would be productive to think of radical solutions, and we should rethink the way that fraternities function in the system and the way they breed a predatory style of society, suggesting the university put more regulations on fraternity life.

Harvard took the step to shut down all fraternities on campus, and despite UC Berkeley "shutting down" certain fraternities, they are still functioning, just not by name. These can be the spaces that had some of the worst documented behavior.

A fellow brought up the point that most mandated trainings on sexual assault are done on a large scale, where there is a lot of side chatter and that it can be less impactful. The fellow encouraged discussions amongst students and their smaller communities so that they may be amongst peers they know and care about. This would allow more unity, more community and would allow the message to be relayed easier.

On the discussion of the university culture as it surrounds sexual harassment, fellows discussed the that university washes its hands of issues and are more obsessed with image and status. For example the professor of emeritus status that was accused of sexual harassment and how that status protects them. It was suggested that there should be a full cultural shift and a strong serious commitment in administration that needs to be made clear to students and faculty.

Fellows discussed how the Chancellor should be at the forefront of this issue, and that there should be some policy guidelines, or a task force that would declare an emergency that it can be a priority. However, another fellow saw that as a poor approach. Bringing up the point that if we are looking for somebody else to fix the problem we will continue to have it. As leaders we can model behaviors and have those conversations in the communities that we run in and even outside of the campus.

When discussing solutions, fellows touched upon the impact of peer to peer interactions. It is important for individuals to have conversations about consent and building healthy relationships, not seeing sex as an end goal or as an entitlement. On top of that, encouraging more frequent trainings and discussions amongst students in order to try and instill a community where sexual assault is a topic that more students feel comfortable discussing.

