Sexual Assault Task Force Minutes  
January 26, 2009  
3pm – 2nd Floor Royce Hall Conference Room  

Agenda:  
1. April Sexual Assault Awareness Activities  
2. Grant County Task Force coordination  
3. Discuss roles with Police Chief Marquardt  
4. Incorporating Sexual Assault Awareness Year-round  

Present: Steven Benish, Vickie Dreessens, Deirdre Dalsing, Sheila Trotter, and Scott Marquardt  

Meeting called to order by Chair, Steven Benish.  

Motion to approve 12/15/08 minutes made by Vickie Dreessens. Second made by Sheila Trotter. Motion carried.  

Members reviewed agenda for today’s meeting, noting that discussion regarding 2010 LAE faculty forum could be continued at a later date if there is not enough time available today.  

Vickie reported that she made contact with Darlene Poller of Family Advocates. They will be attending the Grant County Sexual Assault Task Force meeting together next Thursday, 2/5/09. Vickie will inquire as to activities that they are planning for sexual assault awareness month in April.  

Deirdre updated the group on SHS and UCS’s efforts to obtain a Chancellor Opportunity Grant to further develop the effort initiated last year to engage male student leaders on campus in the fight against sexual assault, violence, and disrespect. The grant was successful and a total of $4,000.00 has been allocated. Deirdre and Vickie will be working with the group of young men who last year committed to this endeavor on 1/28/09 to begin work on developing the program, Student’s Promoting Respect.  

As a new task force member, Chief of Campus Police Scott Marquardt asked about the purpose of this task force and his role. Members gave him a historical perspective challenging the fact this group had been dormant for a significant amount of time and needs to work to develop more year round attention to the issue of sexual assault and sexual violence.  

Members initiated discussion on how to incorporate concept of sexual assault awareness on a year round basis. Discussion focused on insuring this group had the key players on
Members identified the need to involve Becky Peters from the Student Success Center and David Nevins due to his role with new student orientation and campus planning. Vickie volunteered to contact David to see if he would be interested in joining the task force.

Steven volunteered to review journals to identify what programs are showing results in terms of addressing sexual assault/sexual violence on college campuses.

Vickie shared information about the “Save a Life Tour” coming to campus in March and asked whether this would be a program we should try and connect with since the dangers of alcohol use are so closely related to sexual assault/sexual violence.

Members entered discussion regarding the lack of clarity with regard to UWP policies and procedures for students who do report or have questions about reporting sexual assault on campus. All agreed it would be helpful to have Dean of Students, Rich Egley attend a meeting to share that information. Vickie offered to ask Rich if he was available for one of the next two meetings.

Deirdre asked if this group should be planning an event for April to show-case or call attention to the fact it is currently functioning. Ideas generated included sending out an FYI pamphlet regarding UWP policies and procedures on reporting and hosting a panel of experts to be able to expand on that and answer questions for students.

Deirdre will check with Pat Foster to see if the Women’s Center has organized a speaker for April as Pat had indicated interest in doing so last year at the Task Force meetings.

Agenda for next meeting (2/9/09) includes the following:

- Review of reporting policies – Rich Egley
- Check with Pat Foster regarding status on speaker
- Identify and begin planning for Task Force-sponsored event for April
- Deirdre and Vickie will report on progress of SPR.

Submitted by: Deirdre Dalsing, secretary