University of Wisconsin-Platteville Sexual Assault Awareness Council – Minutes
9/27/11

Present:  Mark Wruble, Pat Foster, Vickie Dreessens, Deirdre Dalsing, Darci Wildermuth, Sabina Burton, Dana Cecil, Elizabeth Swift, Scott Marquardt

Absent:  Sheila Trotter

Marc called meeting to order at 8:10am

Vickie motioned to approve minutes from 9/13/11 – Scott seconded. Motioned carried.

Marc indicated officers needed to be elected for this academic year. He was asked to continue as chair, which he agreed to do if responsibilities of council were shared equally. Deirdre motioned to accept Marc as chair for 2011/2012 academic year. Vickie seconded. Motion carried.

Marc asked Deirdre to continue as secretary which she agreed to do.

Scott shared that he will check with Mittie regarding the cost of set-up for Velzy Commons for Josh’s presentation last week. Scott’s department was initially charged. Council agreed it should be included in overall cost.

Vickie shared that the Women’s Council has entered into discussion about sexual assault/sexual violence and its impact on campus.

Pat asked for clarification on the cost for Josh’s 3 presentations to campus. She is working on a plan with Housing to bring him back for new freshman orientation next academic year. Deirdre shared that Dr. Wilson indicated her support for that after she heard Josh’s presentation to the student body last week.

Marc offered discussion on whether this council should be the “coordination point” to expand on into the issues specific to Josh’s presentation on bystander intervention. Discussion was offered to consider the importance of “where we go now” and is it this council that does the planning, coordination, assessment, etc. Question was whether the Title IX person should be considered the coordination point or the Bias Incident Response Team. Consensus from group was that we need to advocate with the Provost for a Violence Awareness “group” that can coordinate all the distinct areas of sexual assault, respect, violence, hatred, discrimination, etc, but have power and the ability to make decisions. Consensus was that the group should be inclusive and campus-wide, including faculty/staff, administrative services, etc. Pat referenced that the results of the campus climate survey will be provided soon and could give us some information as to “where we go from here”. Scott agreed to take issue to the Provost to discuss an oversight committee that can coordinate all the different groups that are inter-related, but acting independent of one another. He will return to council with recommendations and/or direction.
Liz asked to re-visit the discussion generated at our last meeting about providing our presenter with some feedback about broadening his topic to include women who abuse power and being more careful of the narrow stereotypes of men that he presents. Marc shared his perspective that the 1.) The data Josh was using is outdated and often used to sensationalize the topic and 2.) that the man box exercise supported narrow stereotypes and that he wanted to see the presentation emphasize less about males and more about how people abuse power. Marc referenced increasing awareness, but not basing it on narrow or rigid stereotypes. Liz shared her years of experience as a sexual assault advocate and her belief any education has to address the male’s role in sexual assault. She shared that “women’s violence doesn’t negate sexual assault”.

Sabina did express her concern that often women are neglected in the criminal justice arena, specifically “why women commit crimes”.

Many thoughts were shared and expressed. Council discussed the benefit of everyone coming from different perspectives and addressing this issue as a “whole” and not just based on one opinion or belief structure.

Darci was recognized for her efforts on creating the RESPECT “magnet” that includes contact information both on and off campus. Feedback given: Unified Community Services, use their crisis line, not office number. Family Advocates, also use crisis number. Vickie suggested she like the first draft where it was clearly stated that this information was specific to those who had been sexually assaulted, discriminated against, etc. Darci will rework and submit to group again. We continue with a focus on creating a large magnet to put in bathrooms or large permanent signage that would be acceptable to place in key spots on campus.

Next meeting: October 11, 2011

Respectfully submitted:

Deirdre Dalsing, Secretary