University of Wisconsin-Platteville Sexual Assault Awareness Council – Minutes 12/3/12

Present: Marc Wruble, Deirdre Dalsing, Robin Gore, Rebecca Groves, Scott Marquardt, Tim Swenson, Nick Reinhold, Jen DeCoste (guest)

Marc called meeting to order at 8:10 am.

Motion to approve minutes from 11/5/12 and 11/19/12 made by Tim. Motion approved.

Deirdre shared there were over 25 new nominations made to Students Promoting Respect with more faculty making nominations than in the past. Luncheon was held on 11/30/12 with the Chancellor welcoming the new nominees.

Deirdre reported that Counseling Services has just received the raw data from the Healthy Minds Survey we participated in with the other UW-System Counseling Centers. Interesting to note the numbers show our students reported they have been engaging in bystander intervention for excessive drinking behaviors and sexual assault. Our numbers were statistically significant (higher) when compared to national data.

Scott shared that he has been working with Mariah who is working with the Provost’s office to create a master web page related to Sexual Assault. Scott will submit the final product for this group’s review and then we can make final recommendations to the Provost.

Scott had invited Jen DeCoste, our new Chief Diversity Office to join the meeting as a guest and potential resource. Marc provided history of this group and the efforts we have put in to expanding bystander intervention models here at UW-P.

Jen indicated she shares our vision and passion for the work related to sexual assault and offered to be a significant resource for us. She shared that one of her “charges” is to address sexual assault-related issues (as well as harassment) on campus.

Jen advocated for the development of a consistent “message” that can be branded and used in every level on this campus (from students, to staff, to faculty). She shared her experiences at previous campuses (the Value You program) and indicated she has some contacts she will want to connect with us. She also stressed engagement of peers as peer mentors and peer trainers and how important they are for the success of any program.

She also encouraged us to submit a request form for funding based on a memo sent from Cathy Reidl-Farrey outlining budget planning and opportunities. Jen felt our efforts fit well in the strategic plan to address campus climate issues of sexual assault and bullying by faculty. The form and request are due 12/15. Group agreed to pursue and it was recommended that Scott would initiate it as long as others assisted. Deirdre agreed to contact UW-Oshkosh to ask about funding and cost for their program (It Matters). We already know the cost for Step Up. Initial concepts included considering need for graphic designers. Group agreed to focus on use of
student groups and classes to help with the development of any program. Marc agreed to write the description of what we are asking for and “why”.

Marc encouraged group to begin thinking about April and the events we are going to want to pursue.

Discussed previous concept of video contest, which group was strongly in favor of.

Tim offered to provide support or assistance as he runs a self defense class.

Next Meeting: 12/17/12 at 8am with a focus on planning for April and follow-up to fund request.

Respectfully submitted by:
Deirdre Dalsing