

Resolution in Support of Peer Organized Group For Survivors of Sexual Assault

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In collaboration with Title IX Working Committee; Krystle P.

WHEREAS, “For students, sexual assault or dating abuse may affect victims' academic outcomes, graduation rates and mental health (Basile and Smith, 2011). This type of trauma may also have ripple effects by affecting those close to the victim or offender and, more generally, the university community (Langford, 2004);”¹ and

WHEREAS, In one study, Nasta et al. (2005) found that although the majority of victims and nonvictims were aware that psychological and health services were available to victims of sexual assault, only 22% of victims sought out a campus-based resource. Twelve percent of victims received health services, 8% received psychological services, and 4% reported the incident to university security;” and

WHEREAS, research suggests the first person a student will disclose to during crisis is another student, and

WHEREAS a way to bridge the gap between students not reporting and access to resources is through, “victim assistance agencies defined as: public or privately funded organizations that provide victims with support and services to aid their recovery, offer protection, guide them through the criminal justice system process, and assist with obtaining restitution. This can further increase the likelihood of reporting as they often offer advice and guidance for victims on how to navigate the criminal justice process;”² and

¹ Palmer, J. E. (2016). Recognizing the continuum of opportunities for third parties to prevent and respond to sexual assault and dating violence on a college campus. *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, 18(1), 1-18.
doi:<http://dx.doi.org/jpllnet.sfsu.edu/10.1057/cpcs.2015.18>

² Bureau of Justice Statistics . (2014). Special report: Rape and sexual assault victimization among college-age females, 1995-2013 (NCJ 248471). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

WHEREAS Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program at the University of Albany, UCLA Peer Assistance and Wellness Support, Arizona State Devils 4 Devils, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Student Support Network, and SAFER at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo are all successful peer organized groups serving students, and

WHEREAS services provided by San Francisco State University for survivors of sexual assault include the Title IX Office, SAFE place, University Police Department (UPD) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS); yet none of these spaces include a peer to peer guidance similar to victim assistance agencies nor does the University have a central trained peer led space which helps students navigate *all* of the University resources provided; and

WHEREAS students have reported difficulty knowing which offices provide the services specific to their needs, and little to no knowledge on: how to navigate the Title IX Office, the boundaries of mandated reporting, their right to advocacy during Title IX or legal investigations, high wait times for CAPS and SAFE Place, how to hold these offices accountable when students are not being equitably served; and

WHEREAS, The mission of San Francisco State University includes encouraging, “its students, faculty, and staff to engage fully with the community and develop and share knowledge;” and

WHEREAS, President Mahooney states, “Together, we embrace our role as a source of upward mobility for students, as a site of cultural and scholarly engagement, and in the potential of the university as the source for transformative change.”

WHEREAS a peer lead space would work with survivors as a central hub helping them understand which resources are necessary for their specific situation, provide insight on what a Title IX process would look like through a student’s perspective without having to report, provide peer or legal advocacy for Title IX investigations, provide resources to outside services, and utilize the resources already provided by the University; and

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University, University Administration, Division of Student Affairs, and the Associated Students Board of Directors recognizes the importance of providing support and resources for survivors of sexual assault on our campus; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Academic Senate of San Francisco State University, University Administration, Division of Student and the Associated Students Board of Directors support the creation of a peer organized group for survivors of sexual assault; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the University Administration will provide resources and space to the best of their ability to support this group and ensure stability in the years to come; and be it further

RESOLVED, Title IX Office, SAFE place, Counseling and Psychological Services, University Police Department, Division of Student Affairs, and Associated Students will create a working relationship with the peer organized group whether they are within or outside of the departments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the space be staffed by majority students and those staffed will receive compensations deemed fit by Associated Students Board of Directors; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this document is not made to alleviate current staffed spaces from their duties (Title IX Office, SAFE place, UPD, CAPS) but rather show the deficit of services being provided to survivors of assault; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this space equitably serves communities who are often left out of the conversation surrounding sexual violence (ex. Disabled students, trans students, and black students)

RESOLVED, that this document be distributed to the University President, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dean of Students Division of Student Affairs Director of Equity Programs & Compliance (Title IX), UPD Chief of Police, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services, Director of SAFE Place, Director of the Division of Equity and Inclusion,