

Student Voice Association
Town Hall Meeting
Spring Semester
March 9th, 2016 // Lazarus Center Auditorium 2:30-4 pm



Notes Taken by Jane Yeon
Moderators: Stella Lee, Karolina Bartosik, Mandy Chesney

- I. Welcome & Setting the Stage (5 min)
 - A. Introductions, welcome and what is SVA ; some major topics this year include
 - Academic Affairs: rapid student growth, diversity in classrooms, accommodations for learning disabilities
 - Student Life: transportation and campus safety; community involvement committee
 - Grad: power and equity forum, accessibility committee
 - B. Overview of the agenda (topics being covered)
 - C. Open Forum expectations/etiquette & Comment cards

- II. Title IX (20 min)
 - A. Questions/topics to be addressed: who is a mandatory reporter, what training are faculty receiving on Title IX (some students feel faculty are not taking the topic seriously), students are also feeling they need to self-censor their work due to Title IX, what are updates on SHVAC
 - Estevanny Turns (Associate VP for Human Resources and Title IX Coordinator)
 - eturns@mica.edu
 - Mike Patterson (VP for Student Affairs and Deputy Title IX Coordinator)
 - mpatterson@mica.edu
 - Jeanette Holian
 - jholian@mica.edu

Q: Who is a mandatory reporter and what does the process look like

A: Also referred to as “responsible employee” is anyone who has the power or perceived power to mitigate sexual misconduct or gender-based violence

Q: Faculty is inconsistent with what title IX is

A: Currently working with training. "We are not here to censor victims or their experiences". An email would be sent to student from Jeanette Holian, the student therefore is in control (whether or not they want to address their experience).

Mike Patterson: "Faculty themselves.... real inconsistency with how Title IX is address in the beginning of classes. It is not because they are not committed, but rather they are bringing different expectations of classroom environments. Many see the classroom as an already established comfortable and safe space. Missing a piece in laying down the groundwork. Artwork that is inherently self-narrative, Title IX Committee are committed, but we are aware of the inconsistently. "This is a learning experience for the college as a whole"

Estevanny: "SHVAC" sexual harassment and violence advisory council -- to work w campus to find out what is really happening at MICA. How are the policies fitting in and how are we responding?

40 page report with issues that have happened → has been addressed over the course of this year such as:

1. New procedures are now in place for handling sexual misconduct and gender-based violence
2. Worked on resource packages; sanctions, etc
3. Student affairs has increased hours of Counseling center
4. Changed resolution process -- > investigations rather than a hearing model provide more privacy and discretion

Mike: We look at this as a Baltimore area issue, we have worked with 8-9 other campuses and hope to make communication and education training applicable to the surrounding areas in the city.

Aiming to see true representation of sexual violence on the Campus. First ever anonymous climate survey for sexual assault/gender-based violence has been completed by 200 students so far

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Q: I've had experience with sexism in a classroom environment, who would I go to?

Estevanny: That is exactly what Title IX is about, it is gender-based harassment, you have a right to your educational experience without your gender expression being a liability in your success. Talk to me or Jeanette or Kelly.

Mike: Consider active intervention versus pursuing an investigation. You have the power to control how it goes forward

Q: Would that report remain anonymous to faculty?

Estevanny: We are accommodating to confidentiality but anonymity isn't always guaranteed because it may require training or otherwise for that faculty member

Jeanette: We might come up with a plan, decision doesn't have to be made in that moment. That can be done without giving names

Q: I heard there might be a guide on how to report these instances? Is there really a power in our say? Is that communicated clearly to every student?

Estevanny: we are in the process in developing that, addressing those FAQs for the next academic year

Mike: We are aiming for a critical mass to understand Title IX in order to help resolve any confusion surrounding Title IX. A lot of our work this year has been working on making sound policies. Communication will definitely be a top priority this coming year

Q: Are all of faculty getting information on what Title IX is? It seems like professors have it in the syllabus because it is required, but disregard its importance.

Mike: we had a training with all full-time faculty in the beginning of this academic year. This is a topic where research shows that discussions will really push professors to understand the dialogue of Title IX. Working on systematizing training for faculty each year. Also working on putting together a final packet for the faculty to have on-hand for direct and accurate information.

Q: Is there a compromise to the mandatory reporting procedure? Because students will most likely will feel more comfortable going to their professor over Title IX deputies.

Estvenny: we understand that, the reason we need to know is to understand trends/pattern. We need that information to move our resources to that direction. We also need to know if that student is safe. We want to support whether or not you want take certain resources (campus, criminal, etc). There are so many resources we can offer (no contact orders, switching classes, etc).

Mike: when we use the term "mandatory reporter" it can be misleading, the actual term is "responsible employee". What this is really about, is care. Someone you care about has access to that help. Trust the system and conversation more. We know that students can have a relationship that is deeper with a faculty member, the procedures involving that dynamic will be better communicated in the next training.

Q: Are faculty required to let the student know that they are contacting Title IX deputy/coordinator?

Mike: They should absolutely be telling you.

Estevanny: Our priority is the student's safety, it is their decision whether or not they want to continue the discussion

III. Campus Safety (20 min)

A. Questions/topics to be addressed: provide updates on blue lights, staffing additions/changes implemented by Marlon and Campus Safety Advisory Committee, clarification on how to get a walking escort and when those are available, updates/changes to campus evening shuttles

- Marlon Byrd (Director of Campus Safety)
 - mbyrd01@mica.edu

Q: What have been some changes implemented so far?

Marlon: uniformed guards at every main building, ID check at front desks, documentation, regular communication to the MICA community. Creating goals and objectives for each year and present it to the rest of the CS department, reassessing and updating those goals

Q: Students had a difficult time getting walking escorts particularly around the blizzard time earlier this semester

Marlon: That should not happen, the explanation provided is that CS didn't have the capabilities to maintain coverage while providing walking escorts. We have some staffing issues, but for future instances, it should be communicated to the student why they were denied that resource. Matter of covering a lot of space, the more presence we have out there, the safer people will feel.

Q: Will a walking escort take you off-campus?

Marlon: Yes, from campus areas to off campus areas.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Q: We received an email that shuttles would pick us up from an off-campus location. Please provide clarification on the communication to students as it is inconsistent.

Rufus: CS transportation was initially established as a resource for students to take the shuttle from class to home. With the rise in crime, it has increased its perimeters around campus. With this change, there is some confusion with where

and when shuttle services operate. They will pick you up from any campus location. We are working with students to make sure there is an understanding as to what transportation services is there for. In terms of inconsistency in communication to students (i.e. emails), we will reiterate that to staff during training.

Marlon: In the process of ordering different radios so individuals aren't communicating on the same channel

Rufus: working on potentially develop mobile app for transportation services to MICA students

Marlon: working on staffing-- increase of institutional patrol officers

IV. Internal Communications (20 min)

A. Questions/topics to be addressed: MICA continues to struggle with this (students often cannot find what they are looking for, when they are looking for it....how can we help students find resources). What are changes being implemented based on last year's HUB work? How can students get involved in providing feedback?

- Tom Hyatt (VP of Technology, Systems and Services)
 - thyatt@mica.edu
- Justin Codd (Director of Web & Electronic Communications)
 - jcodd@mica.edu

Tom: the mymica portal, interdepartmental communication, departmental newsletters are some areas we are working on and making changes

Justin: We are in the discovery phase; the website has grown in page count tremendously. We opened up the discussion in an email sent to colleagues at other colleges such as RISD. RFP (Request for Proposal) written after developing the discovery phase. RFP is created and sent to a vendor who will then work on web/communication changes. Currently working on a user survey for everyone to comment on, will be available mid-April by the latest.

"Nothing is off the table. What can change, what can be approved"

We hope to have the RFP finished by the end of the semester and will be meeting with vendors over the summer

Tom: we will be choosing a firm and focusing on the needs of the campus. Some of the goals we have for the website include increased personalization, access to departmental information, increased student work on the website.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Q: How much of a role do you have in emails sent from CS or other departments?

Justin: It is not necessarily our responsibility but we are working hand in hand with various department on campus.

Sammy Hoi: we try to get a 360 perspective before college-wide communication is sent to students, but we have a very team-based approach to campus-wide communications

Tom: we are engaged in providing more targeted emails (ex. grad students in Mt. Royal or Juniors in GD)

Q: Are we still going to be using PeopleSoft?

Tom: a lot of things are happening with PeopleSoft. We know that it is an older system and that it needs to be replaced. We are working on improving or replacing that method for students. It won't happen in the next year or two, so it will be a process that will evolve over the next few years

Q: Will there be a mobile-friendly site for MICA students?

Justin: the discussion has been ongoing. We now have the leverage for well-seasoned technologies and practices to improve and create a more responsive design.

V. Open Forum (20 min)

Q: Regarding Title IX, do professors that report, are they kept in the loop at all?

Estevanny: It will be up to the claimant (victim/survivors) what information they want shared with that faculty member.

Q: Regarding transportation, what are the options to get the class with limited mobility?

Rufus: In the past, we have worked with the Student Resource center, and based on that we would provide resources for that student specifically.

Mike: You would contact the Learning Resource center or with Student Affairs. Also with Dede who is our new Student Development Specialist

Q: I am a MICA Place resident. Many in the Community Arts Program are expected to move out while developing programs and many issues have come up due to this. I think MICA could reconsider their decision in this or provide consistent answers on why they are required to move out at that time.

Mike: We have windows that we simply have to repair (lead paint remediation) in the residential units or those complexes would be shut down. That should be resolved this

summer. The bigger question is the intended 10-month residential living in that building and how it works with the academic setting. The change may not be implemented this year, but it is a conversation that we are happy to have.

Q: Does the shuttle service run to MICA Place?

Rufus: The circulator schedule was created to support transportation to MICA Place. It is a matter of having that conversation to alter any accommodations to those students.

Q: There is only one security camera outside of the Meyerhoff, why does it not have the same amount of visibility as other residential buildings?

Marlon: there are some blind spots in several building because some people didn't want cameras there. We invite all types of communication so that we can reconsider the placement or addition of cameras.

VI. Follow-up/Next Steps & Closing (5 min)