

## **Minutes from Title IX Advisory Committee Meeting on 12.03.20**

### **9:01 AM: Introduction**

Title IX team member introduces the meeting purpose. There is one new member, so all participants introduce themselves and their role at UP. Title IX team member further elaborates on agenda for this meeting, including Tedx video and subcommittee discussion.

### **9:07 AM: Body Sovereignty: How we can cultivate a culture of consent**

Title IX Advisory Committee watches Tedx video “Body Sovereignty: How we can cultivate a culture of consent” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvGyo1NrzTY>

### **9:24 AM: Discussion Surrounding Video**

Committee members provide thoughts on the video. One participant shares the value in cumulative consent education over time, particularly with young people. Another participant shares thoughts regarding body sovereignty (recommends the book *Screw Consent* by Joel Fisher) and how we use the language of consent, including the complexities of how consent can look both politically and socially. Group discusses how it can be difficult to hear positive examples of consent on campus, as staff are often told the more negative or unpleasant examples of consent. However, staff also share that students have opened up further about the nuance and complexity of consent, which may indicate a changing campus culture.

Title IX team member raises the question how we bring these nuanced conversations about consent to UP. One committee member discusses the shallowing/deepening of relationships can causes consent to be a layered, fluid and ongoing thing. One member suggests that it may be helpful for staff and students to try and engage in the same exercises and methodology used by the Tedx speaker (asking, using stops, allowing for a waiting period). These ideas could be used as tools and practice for students on campus.

One student shares how their experience in sex education has been uncomfortable and often isn't relatable to students, so making the language and approach more relatable to students may be helpful for making it more effective. Another staff member states that while consent is a simple concept of communication, it can be difficult to get out this messaging in the first six weeks of the year when the most assault and violence may happen. Another staff member supports this and states that the relationship-based community at UP is a strength in achieving better programing and working

collectively. This staff member asks what students would have wanted from their programming as first years. Title IX team member expresses the need to include this language and value system into multiple levels at UP, including marketing. Another staff expresses concern for how reproductive rights would be incorporated into this, with the Catholic social mission. Student expresses the need for less academic language.

Title IX team member states that residence life may be able to help spread ideas of clear consent and communication. Another staff member who was formally associated with residence life supports the difficulty in spreading this messaging with the Catholic social mission (brought up in the above paragraph) and for students who want to adhere to Catholic values. This staff member expresses that programs like Green Dot can be helpful as it allows these student to step out of themselves and their values, but there is still that tension between this work and Catholicism at UP. A Title IX member supports that this tension exists across campus, with staff, faculty and students. This conversation of Catholic values and how to impart them onto body sovereignty is one the group would like to further.

Another participant shares that students will sometime share that they believe they shouldn't talk about sex at UP because of the Catholic mission. This participant shares that gearing a conversation towards wellness and health, towards communication, can allow for more positive conversations to happen. This participant also acknowledges that while The Church may want students to follow traditional values (ex. waiting until marriage), there are other factors at play. Title IX team member states that there may be a need to discuss what it means to be Catholic at UP as there is no consistent way to be so. Earlier participant supports this and how there is a need for conversations about this as a community and how to discuss this larger community of faith at UP. The concept of morality (ex. to be a good Catholic) and how it can relate to this discussion of body sovereignty.

One staff member shares that this discussion is very binary and that the discussion around consent can be broader to include non-physical consent or non-sexual consent. Title IX team member supports this and states that this topic of how to broaden consent may be a good topic for the culture change committee. Another staff member supports this and states that they have found success in confronting that there is existing distrust/trust with the Catholic church and opening a discussion about that with students. Additional staff supports this and states that there can be a perception issue among students that we all need to move through together.

### **9:55 AM: End of Meeting Summary/Recent Data**

Title IX team member states that they will be sending out a Doodle to gather availability for upcoming meeting for next semester (as the end of semester is approaching). Another Title IX team member provides most recent data on cases/reports. This semester, the team has received the following reports: 1 general report, 4 cases of sexual harassment, 6 cases of sexual harassment regarding the Get Inclusive program, 1 case of stalking/sexual harassment, 1 case of stalking with multiple parties, 5 cases of domestic violence/interpersonal violence and 3 cases of sexual assault/rape. This brings the total cases for the Fall 2020 semester to 20. There were also 2 no-contact orders and 1 no-trespass order issued.

Title IX member notes that this includes events reported in prior years and that Title IX is providing support/follow up/investigations for these. This time last year, there were near 70 cases. Subcommittee leaders shared updates on their committee goals and how their work is going. All have goals and plans to start work in the Spring.

Title IX team member shares some issues around confidentiality and that people are always welcome to reach out to Title IX to ask questions or raise concerns (including information on matters they may be hearing about).

Another Title IX team member shares an end of year message.

**Meeting ends 10:03 AM.**