

Title IX Advisory Meeting Minutes from 10.08.2021

1:32 PM: Introductions and Meeting Start

All members present introduce themselves and their roles at UP to the group.

1:40 PM: Structure & Function of Current Title IX Team

Tammy Herdener explains current Title IX team structure, as there have been changes since Spring 2021. Meg Farra and Ann James (of Grand River Solutions) are serving as Interim Title IX Co-Coordinators. Tammy and James Pena will be serving in student-facing roles. Emma Ahern provides auxiliary support to these team members.

Emma states that Ann is not a UP employee in the way previous Coordinators have been, but is still a part of the team and community. Ann James further explains her role as a contracted Interim Title IX Coordinator and how she will work with UP. Meg Farra fulfills largely student support pieces, Ann fulfills largely investigative portions. Email titleix@up.edu for more information.

1:45 PM: SASA Updates

SASA is preparing for Fall Week of Action and states that the third-party advocate committee may not present their advocate proposal until Spring 2022. Tammy states that they would like to continue work on this committee, as would SASA. SASA advisor also states further ideas for options and other solutions. SASA leadership then summarizes the events of the Fall SASA Week of Action events. SASA explains general plans for the year.

1:53 PM: Committee Updates and Discussion

Emma Ahern provides committee updates for the three committees, including that the third-party advocate committee proposal is currently in a holding pattern until budget approval and discussion is possible. The other two committees didn't convene over the summer, there were minimal updates. A student participant expresses that they would be interested in being a student representative or liaison to support students and help them report. Another participant expresses that current on-campus student groups and organizations could be used to help fulfill this role. The group expressed that there is interest in re-creating the student committee, perhaps under a broader label of student engagement or helping students in general be involved rather than strictly recruiting students to be confidential advocates.

Member of the Cultural Change committee provides more recent information on this committee's goals and what they had been doing in Spring 2021. Committee had discussed creating campus awareness, through the changes to in-person and through working with faculty. Participant expresses there may have been Zoom fatigue, which may have contributed to the lack of attendance to the listening sessions the committee hosted last year. A different member also notes that data was collected for Clery and other data may be helpful to review to build and create broader campus trends to focus on for the committees moving forward. Leadership for this committee is currently vacant, people interested in leadership can reach out.

Member of the committee expresses that the committees could be consolidated into one. Tammy then states that the broader committee could just work on these broader goals and then smaller groups could meet to work on specific goals, such as student engagement. Group agrees to broaden the group and dissolve the larger committees. Third party advocate goals continue.

2:12 PM: General Discussion

Tammy speaks about how the transition from virtual to in-person may have caused some students to behave a little awkwardly or forget some of the expectations for students. A student participant shares that they feel current first-years are engaging in more intense behavior because of the gap in experience.

2:15 PM: Closing

Tammy summarizes meeting and future goals, asks for feedback on in-person versus virtual meetings. Committee member shares they would like to continue virtual meetings. Group will continue with virtual meetings. Tammy and Title IX Team offers one on one meetings for those who would like to.

Next meeting is on November 5th at 1:30 PM