



# Board of Governors

## Memorandum

To: Governance and Human Resources Committee

From: Debbie Hansen, Executive Director, Community Support and Services  
Marian MacGregor, Committee Chair  
Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Date: June 10, 2020

Subject: Annual Reports of the Centre for Sexual Violence Response, Supports and Education and the Sexual Violence Advisory Committee Report

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### Recommendation:

The Report of the Sexual Violence Advisory Committee is provided for information.

The Report of the Centre for Sexual Violence Response and Education is provided for information.

### Background and Rationale:

In March 2019 the Province required all Ontario universities to have in place a Sexual Violence Policy Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) and to report on the activities of the Committee on an annual basis to the Board of Governors and to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. The Advisory Committee’s purpose is to review the Policy on Sexual Violence as required (at least every three years) and to provide opportunities to make and receive recommendations regarding additional steps York University could take to ensure a safe environment.

The Advisory Committee was struck in early 2019 to undertake a review of the York University *Policy on Sexual Violence* (the “Policy”) as required by the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act* (the “Act”). That review was completed, and amendments were brought before this Committee in the Fall of 2019. The Advisory Committee is diverse in its membership with staff, faculty and students represented.

The Advisory Committee met again in March 2020 and was additionally tasked with making recommendations, as needed, to ensure a safe environment at York University.

## Board of Governors - Governance and Human Resources Committee

The Advisory Committee committed to meeting in person a minimum twice a year and more if deemed necessary.

The Province also requires that the Centre for Sexual Violence Response, Support and Education provide an annual update report on its activities to the Board of Governors.

# Report of York University Sexual Violence Advisory Committee

## Purpose

1. Provide an update on the activities of the York University Sexual Violence Advisory Committee

## Background

1. The Sexual Violence Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) was initially established in early 2019.
2. The Advisory Committee membership reflects a diversity of student representatives as well as Administrators and Faculty.
3. The Advisory Committee was initially established to review the York University Policy on Sexual Violence (“policy”) and to make recommendations on policy amendments.
4. The Advisory Committee reviewed the policy and made recommendations for amendments to the Board of Governors in the Fall of 2019. Those recommendations were accepted, and the policy was revised in October 2019.
5. In addition, the Province requires all colleges and universities to establish a task force that will continue to review policies and procedures be devoted to examining the campus environments broadly and ensuring that we create an environment that promotes a safer space. The Advisory Committee will make and receive recommendations regarding additional steps York University could take to ensure a safe environment
6. The Advisory Committee, whose membership includes diverse student representation as well as Administrators and Faculty, was well placed to take on these additional tasks

## Activities of the Advisory Committee

1. The Advisory Committee met in March 2020 and its Terms of Reference was expanded to include making and receiving recommendations regarding additional steps York University could take to ensure a safe environment.
2. The Centre for Sexual Violence Response, Support and Education (the “Centre”) provided an overview of its activities for the past year including the supports and services offered. The Centre also directed the Advisory Committee to the newly released individual institutional results of the *Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey* which had been released by the Province in February 2020.
3. The Advisory Committee committed to meeting at a minimum bi-annually.

## **Report of York University Sexual Violence Advisory Committee**

### **Recommendations**

1. The Advisory Committee recommended the following:
  - a. The Centre review the current training videos, and where possible, have French subtitles inserted
  - b. Consider using additional training scenarios/vignettes that involve the role of Teaching Assistants
  - c. Review best practices on how to implement client satisfaction surveys effectively and meaningfully

Dated: June 10, 2020

Prepared by: Marian MacGregor, Committee Chair