Resolution 10.35: Community Initiatives to Help Eradicate Sexual Assault at Wesleyan University

Sponsors: Kate Cullen ’16 (Principal), Andrew Trexler ’14, Nicole Updegrove ’14, Jacob Musinsky ’15, Grant Tanenbaum ’15, Nicole Brenner ’15, Chris Caines ’16, Lily Herman ’16, Bruno Machiavelo ’16, Rebecca Hutman ’17, Aidan Martinez ’17, Keyonne Session ’17, Victor Zhao ’17, Jack Spira ’16, Alice Lee ‘17

Affirming the WSA’s role as the representative student legislative and deliberative body of Wesleyan University,

Pointing to longstanding concerns of student safety on campus particularly in regards to sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and relationship violence,

Aiming to one day eliminate these issues that plague our campus community,

Admitting that sexual violence is a societal problem that plagues all communities and furthermore, that no single solution will entirely eradicate incidents on campus,

Committing to nonetheless put forward our best effort as a community to make our campus safer for all people,

Highlighting current problems with Wesleyan’s reporting and adjudication systems that hinder and exasperate the process for both the accusing and the accused,

Recognizing that sexual violence occurs in all spaces on campus; including, but not limited to campus residence halls, Greek houses, program houses, wood frame houses and other university buildings,

Further recognizing that we must make comprehensive changes across campus to alleviate sexual violence in all spaces on campus regardless of what changes are made to Greek spaces this semester,

Aiming for the greater inclusion of the Queer community in our campus discourse on sexual assault and the expansion of our conversation from male perpetrators and female victims to all peoples,

Presenting this resolution as an addendum, and not an alternative, to the previous resolutions put forward to address sexual violence in specific campus spaces,

Honoring the ideas and suggestions put forward by students in WSA General Assembly meetings, the April 21st student forum on sexual violence, student group statements, and through other avenues,

Desiring effective, widespread, and immediate changes across our community to begin eradicating sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence,
Therefore, be it resolved that the Wesleyan Student Assembly:

1. Submits the following memorandum to the Wesleyan Administration urging the implementation of specific reforms to the reporting process, the judicial process, and university policies that perpetuate sexual assault culture. These reforms include:
   a. Expanding the language on sexual harassment from the workplace to all spaces on campus, educational and residential included;
   b. Redefining consent as enthusiastic consent to make clear that a verbal “yes,” as opposed to a lack of “no,” must be received for activity to be consensual;
   c. Clarifying why an act is only considered sexual harassment if the target says no, while an act is only considered sexual assault if the victim does not say yes
   d. Examining the creation of an anonymous reporting system;
   e. Providing a worksheet for students in the reporting meeting outlining a timeline, checklist, list of resources, and summary of key policies so students can leave with that information in hand;
   f. Streamlining the process in which victims provide testimony and answer questions so they do not need to repeat their story multiple times;
   g. Bringing more members to the adjudication board who are geared towards survivor support;
   h. Enhancing the training for adjudication board members to provide them with a greater understanding of rape culture, party culture and inherent biases;
   i. Making abundantly clear that character witnesses are not allowed nor testimony on character in closing statements;
   j. Clarifying and improving specific safeguards for both the accuser and accused if the accuser is not found responsible for the charge;
   k. Following up with both parties after one month and then one semester, regardless of the outcome of the case but only if the student agrees to be contacted;
   l. Making clear that students found responsible for sexual misconduct cannot serve on the Student Judicial Board, the Honor Board, or any other adjudication board;
   m. Clarifying that both the accuser and accused can request any community member serve as a Process Advisor, accompanying the student to the hearing and other related meetings;
   n. Offering the names of SART Intern(s) trained in Title IX policies and university procedures to the students in the judicial process to answer any questions they may feel more comfortable asking a fellow student;
   o. Including students in the conversation about switching from an adjudication model to an investigator model for cases of sexual assault and harassment;
p. Providing a list of alumni or other community members trained in law and vetted by the university for students to informally consult on their hearing statements;
q. Adding literature on reporting policies and tips for supporting students through the process to the packet given to parents at freshman orientation;
r. Requiring additional and continuous trainings for Public Safety officers to supplement their yearly training on policies and procedures as well as rape culture;
s. Equipping a female Public Safety officer to investigate or assist with the investigation of sexual assault and harassment cases;
t. Continuing the expansion of the educational video program, based upon Yale University’s set of videos, to include resources for victims, perpetrators, parents, friends, and other community members. In addition, a video clearly defining various prohibited behaviors, including sexual violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, intimate partner violence, would be beneficial;
u. Expanding educational programming in freshman orientation and throughout the year to include stalking, relationship violence and sexual harassment;
v. Collaborating with the Athletics Department to require all team captains to complete bystander intervention training and a training on sexual assault policies and procedures so they themselves can formally train their teammates;
w. Mandate that bystander intervention training, in addition to host training, be required for students to host parties on campus;
x. Institutionalize bystander intervention training as a ResLife programming requirement in all residential halls.
y. Expanding the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to include more faculty members and students;
z. Training more female faculty members in case female victims (who make up the vast majority of victims) prefer counsel from another female;
aa. Hiring two new Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Intern positions, for a total of three SART Interns, to assist in additional bystander intervention trainings and other programming on campus. It would be ideal to have at least one male-identifying Intern, female-identifying Intern
bb. Equipping SART members to assist students with questions about relationship violence and stalking;
cc. Hiring a Men’s Health Coordinator to organize education and outreach programs around high-risk behaviors of male students such as interpersonal violence, hazing, and substance abuse. In addition to the qualifications outlined by Brown University in their
position advertisement, we suggest the Men’s Health Coordinator be knowledgeable of Queer issues in order to provide for Queer male students.¹
dd. Establishing a Gender Resource Center as proposed to President Roth by Students For Consent and Communication (SFCC), which is one of our sexual assault activist groups on campus;

ee. Rethinking the current drinking policy structure, which prohibits individuals under 21 from drinking in residence halls, thus pushing underclassmen to fraternity parties and other party spaces where they are not as safe. Furthermore, these restrictions push drinking in residence halls behind closed doors, facilitating rapid and secretive binge drinking²;

ff. Creating more alcohol-free student controlled social spaces;

gg. Reallocating UCAB funding to student groups for specific alcohol-free parties and social gatherings;

hh. Establishing a calendar of non-alcoholic weekend events;

ii. Change the hours of operation of university weekend services to promote healthier weekend lifestyles³;

jj. More closely linking education on alcohol use and sexual assault to clearly show the correlation between the two;

2. Supports Dean Antonio and the Title IX Policy & Education Committee with the creation of informational videos over the summer for the Wesleyan website narrated by students outlining university and Title IX federal policies related to sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and relationship violence;

3. Endorses the Students for Consent and Communication (SFCC) Administrative Proposal, highlighting:

   a. Mandatory and repeated Sexual Assault / Intimate Partner Violence Training for all Public Safety Officers
   b. Expanding information on Intimate Partner Violence for students
   c. Mandatory materials for parents included in distributed orientation materials

¹ Brown University has just created such a position. The job description can be found here: http://www.higheredjobs.com/state/details.cfm?JobCode=175879498&Title=Men%27s%20Health%20Coordinator

² The vast majority of sexual assaults on campus include the use of alcohol by both parties. Alcohol consumption by no means causes sexual violence; nonetheless, it creates situations in which aggressive behavior is more likely. Below are policy changes designed to remove the institutional structures that cultivate high risk drinking and thus perpetuate sexual assault. Armstrong, Hamilton, Sweeney, “Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape”)

³ For example, there is no place for students to get food on Saturday and Sunday mornings until 11 am, reinforcing students’ decisions to stay out late and drink the night before. In addition, the Freeman athletic facilities are not open until 11am.
d. Creation of a designated position for issues sexual violence on the WSA (see Operative Clause 10)

e. Reform of Orientation programming to have trigger warnings and more follow up conversations with a trained individual

4. **Supports** the continued programming put on by SFCC and other sexual assault activist groups on campus including Take Back the Night on April 24th;

5. **Endorses** the establishment of a Gender Resource Center as proposed by Students For Consent and Communication (SFCC), Adolescent Sexual Health Awareness (ASHA), and Rho Epsilon Pi to provide more safe spaces for women and other non-male students;

6. **Urges** supplying of further education on university policies on stalking, relationship violence and sexual harassment in freshman orientation as well as other SART programming and student programming;

7. **Advocates** for the establishment of a program that facilitates male-to-male dialogue and education on sexual assault, gender dynamics, and social justice issues similar to the model of Men Overcoming Restrictive Expectations (MORE) at Dickinson College;

8. **Urges** all (varsity and club) team captains and student group leaders to complete bystander intervention training and a training on sexual assault policies. Furthermore, all sports team members and student group members will be required to attend a training conducted by their captain or student group leader with support from the SART Intern(s);

9. **Advocates** for the requirement of trigger warnings on all campus performances and publications that may evoke traumatic memories for survivors of sexual violence;

10. **Calls** on the WSA Sexual Violence Action Liaison (previously the Sexual Violence Action Committee appointee) to continuously revisit these recommendations and ensure their implementation. In addition, the WSA appointee should serve as a liaison to the Sexual Violence Action Committee, SFCC, ASHA, and all other relevant sexual activist groups on campus;

11. **Prohibits** students found responsible for sexual misconduct, harassment, abuse or stalking from joining or serving on the Wesleyan Student Assembly;

---

4 Similar programs have been initiated at our peer schools by male athletes that facilitate conversations on these issues between male sports teams.

5 The Vassar Student Association recently passed a [similar requirement](https://example.com).

6 The WSA Elections Committee will send all names of students running in each election to the Student Affairs Office for an audit. In addition, the WSA Elections Committee will inform all candidates at the mandatory candidates meeting that students convicted of the above charges cannot run for the WSA. Students currently on the Assembly who are found responsible of one of the above charges will be notified by the Student Affairs Office that they must resign from the WSA. Furthermore, any current member who has been found responsible by Wesleyan University of an offense listed above must resign from the WSA. In addition to the current practice of telling students convicted of the above charges that
12. **Welcomes** additional suggestions from all parties to make our campus a safer space for all people;
13. **Insists** on continued campus dialogue and education on this issue;
14. **Resolves** to remain (very) actively seized of the matter and take additional steps toward eradicating sexual violence.

[Introduced 20 April 2014 / Adopted 27 April 2014]

they cannot join the SJB or Honor Board, the Student Affairs Office will inform all students who are found responsible for the above charges that they cannot run for the WSA.