

# **Campus Safety Advisory Committee Annual Report – Academic Year 2023-2024**

**Meeting Dates:** 11/02/2023, 11/21/2023, 2/29/2024, and 4/04/2024

## **Committee Members:**

Chief Daniel Daugherty

Coryn Voels

Dr. Jill Bandura

Amanda Cataldo

Dr. Brian Kelly

Justina Geremia

Dr. Deanna Devlin

Chloe Madlinger - student

Edward Huang - student

Anthony Ermelino – student

## **Guest Presenters:**

Dorothy Hughes, AVP for Administration and Jessica Durso, Assistant Director of Human Resources (11/21/2023 mtg)

Inspector Keri Hauff - UPD, Frank Rampello - Student Advocate, Tom Azzara - Director of Athletics, Kathleen Flynn – Title IX Coordinator, Michael Nembhard – Acting Dean of Students and Lukas Miedreich – Student activities Director (4/04/2024 mtg)

## **Introduction**

This year's Campus Safety Advisory Committee was tasked with two very important safety issues. The first was overseeing the implementation of hate crime legislation that was signed into law by Governor Hochul to enhance hate crime reporting and prevention on college campuses. The other was a top down review of all of Farmingdale State College's mechanisms for responding to, and the prevention of, sexual violence. As with every year, the committee was also updated at each meeting of any staffing changes within the Police Department, community interactions and events.

## **Hate Crimes Legislation**

In a July 11, 2023 press release, Governor Hochul described the new law, "*Legislation S.2060-A/A.3694-A amends the education law to require a college's advisory committee on campus security to review current policies and procedures for educating the campus community about bias related and hate crimes, reporting hate crimes, and assisting victims during hate crime investigations. This legislation also updates the procedure for disseminating information on campus crime statistics, and specifically requires the reporting and posting of hate crime offenses. It requires this information to be made available on the college's website, no longer simply providing students information about how to access it within the campus catalogue, student handbook and viewbook. Now, colleges will also be required to adopt a plan providing for the investigation of hate crimes on campus and inform incoming students about hate crime prevention measures. This legislation will require colleges that receive state funding to modernize and enhance their disclosure of hate crimes that occur on campus. To ensure students remain safe on college campuses in New York, the bill also creates a clear obligation on the part of colleges to investigate potential hates crimes and report them to law enforcement. This bill would also strengthen existing*

*reporting and information disclosure laws pertaining to identifying and addressing bias crimes on college campuses.”*

The SUNY Office of General Counsel provided updated Guidance to assist campuses in the implementation of these new requirements. The legislation:

- Requires the annual reporting of bias related hate crimes.
  - Compliance was achieved by adding an additional icon button on the UPD home page providing information on any hate crimes that occurred on campus over the previous three years.
- Requires the review of current policies and procedures to ensure they are updated to include the investigation of bias-related hate crimes.
  - The current policy management program that UPD uses is called Lexipol. It allows UPD to access, update and monitor all current department policies. A review of UPD’s specific Hate Crime Policy (Hate Crimes - Policy 318) was conducted and found to be in compliance with the legislation.
- Requires that the College educate incoming students and employees about hate crime prevention measures and reporting.
  - Title IX Coordinator Kathleen Flynn includes hate crime prevention and reporting measures in her presentation to all incoming students.
  - University Police has also established a new community resource officer- Tech Sgt Luis Llano who is in constant communication with campus organizations which represent individuals who may be the victims of hate crimes such as pride organizations, Caribbean connection groups, black student unions, etc. He is tasked with providing on-going education on hate crime prevention and reporting procedures.
  - University Police has added hate crime definitions and statistics for the victims of hate crimes on it’s “Hate Crimes Resources” tab
  - UPD also discusses how the Rave Guardian app can be used by the FSC community to report hate crimes to University Police during new student orientations and new employee orientations.
  - Finally, Human Resources Assistant Director, Jessica Durso, updated our committee on the onboarding procedures for new hires. They go through an online packet that includes campus policies and procedures which include hate crime prevention and reporting.
- Requires that the College provide information on victim assistance for the campus community should they be a victim of a hate crime.
  - University Police has added a comprehensive list of resources for the victims of hate crimes on it’s “Hate Crimes Resources” tab

### **Sexual Violence Prevention and Response**

At the April 4, 2024 CSAC meeting, an extensive review was conducted of FSC’s sexual violence prevention and response mechanisms. The meeting included representatives from all of the relevant departments on campus who would be involved in these efforts. The following individuals presented to the committee:

Inspector Keri Hauff, University Police – Insp. Hauff discussed UPD’s Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). She went into detail about who is on the team, their qualifications and the policies and procedures of the SART team. She also spoke about Tech Sgt. Luis Llano’s involvement with spreading awareness and information to the campus community in his role as the Community Relations Officer. She gave an example of his involvement in the planning of FSC’s “Take Back the Night” program. In addition, Tech Sgt. Llano teaches self-defense classes and domestic violence awareness programs. Insp. Hauff also works with William Finnegan, the coordinator of Fraternity/Sorority Life on campus to spread sexual violence awareness amongst Greek organizations.

Kathleen Flynn, Title IX Coordinator - Kathleen is the Title IX Officer in the Office of Student Advocacy. She began with describing the initial Title IX Intake Form that is completed when a victim comes to report a sexual violence incident. She explained the concept of “Enough is Enough” with the goal of having the victim only share their story once and not multiple times to various campus departments. A determination is then made, with the victim, on how they would like to proceed (Police, Title IX, etc.) She also stated that all FSC athletes are required to take annual Title IX training. She concluded with two very important events that she oversees. In October, she organized a “Signing the Pledge” domestic violence awareness program and on April 16 she will be spearheading FSC’s “Take Back the Night” event. The three-part event includes an Information Fair, a march across campus, and a guest speaker. The program brings awareness to end all forms of sexual violence including sexual assault, sexual abuse, trafficking, stalking, gender harassment, and relationship violence and supports survivors in their healing journeys.

Michael Nembhard, Acting Dean of Students and Frank Rampello, Student Advocate – They began by describing the student concerns portal that was recently released. Michael stated that students can report concerns, and those concerns are shared directly with the appropriate office. This would include sexual misconduct, assault or harassment complaints. On the portal, the Title IX sexual misconduct reporting form automatically goes to Kathleen Flynn. Frank Rampello stated that at new student orientations, in addition to Kathleen Flynn’s presentation, they have also brought in a performance group that tackles sexual violence prevention and mitigation in a program called “Sex Signals”. The group brings an interactive live performance, that uses a humor-facilitated, inclusive approach to examining cultural norms surrounding sex and sexual violence prevention strategies like bystander intervention. The show is comprised of a two-person team of highly trained educators that take the audience on an interactive, relevant, and often hilarious exploration of the cultural messaging we receive about gender, sexuality, sexual health, and intimate relationships. The group has received rave reviews from incoming students. In his role as the director of residence life, Michael detailed the efforts of his Resident Assistants (RAs) who are constantly working on preventative programs regarding healthy relationships and bystander awareness. During RA training, officers from UPD participate in “Behind Closed Doors” role-playing exercises. This training provides real world scenarios that resident assistants may face regarding reports of sexual violence and how to get help for victims.

Lukas Miedreich, Director of Student Activities – Lukas gave the committee an overview of his department and all of the various programming that Student Activities supports. The Student Activities webpage lists all upcoming RamCentral Events including LGBTQ Safe Space Training, Sexual Assault Prevention Training, etc.

Thomas Azzara, the Director of Athletics – Tom informed the Committee that every NCAA coach each year has to complete Title IX training with Kathleen Flynn. Kathleen meets with each team. Its interactive and helpful.

**Conclusion**

This year's projects that the Campus Safety Advisory Committee undertook will go a long way to enhancing the safety and security of everyone at Farmingdale State College. The committee looks forward to continuing these projects and taking on new ones in the upcoming academic year.