Committee on Student Life (CSL)
Friday, October 26, 2012
Room 12-196 12pm – 2pm
Minutes taken by Lisa Stagnone

Present: Lizhong Zheng (chair), Gunther M. Roland, Jit Hin Tan, Amy (Betsy) E. Riley, Oz B. Agar

Guest: Mark DiVincenzo, General Counsel
Kate McCarthy, Violence Prevention and Response

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Today we are talking about how safe our students feel. Today’s culture is dealing with bullying, cyber-bullying, people not wanting to speak up, feeling more isolated than ever. What is there to protect students?

Mark DiVincenzo stated that At MIT we have a staff of eleven lawyers or what we call counselors. We meet with faculty and students in difficult situations. Safety is a concern on campus. Title IX is a federal law amended in 1972 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, be excluded from participating in or be denied benefit of, or be subject to discrimination in a university or college setting. The US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, has issued guidance / expectations for school related sexual violence.

Title IX covers all aspects of assault. The broader covers Athletic, Academic & Research, and Extra Curriculum / off campus. The subset is sexual violence.

How did this come about? First, in the spring 2011 the vice president, along with secretary of state was to address combatting sexual assaults, with a focus on colleges and universities. Secondly, a Dear Colleague Letter was written and sent to the United Stated Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights on April 4th 2011. In this letter it was written that “educational environment free from discrimination is extremely important. The sexual harassment of students, including sexual violence, interferes with students’ right to receive an education free from discrimination and, in the case of sexual violence, is a crime”. Thirdly, incidents on campus that were happening (Penn. State, Yale...).

These concerns were based on stats:
1 out of 5 undergraduate women were attempted or actually completed assaults.
1 out of 16 undergraduate men were attempted or completed assaults.

In 2009 the Clery Act report came into play of reporting crimes. The Clery Act requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses. Compliance is monitored by the United States Department of Education, which can impose civil penalties up to $27,500 per violation, against institutions for each infraction and can suspend institutions from participating in federal student financial aid.

Students or employees at MIT are protected under Title IX. People who are participating in events at MIT are protected as well as individuals, non-MIT.
Under Title IX, conduct is referenced. This conduct must be sexual in nature, unwelcomed, and severe. This must be non-consented physical contact.

What happens once notice is made? There is an obligation to investigate and determine an event occurred. MIT must end the harassment and prevent it from re-occurring as well as prevent retaliation. We must address and remedy the efforts of harassment.

Anyone can report this. Whether it is the person assaulted, a friend, family member, parent, or employee. We have trained staff who will know how to respond when calls come in.

What you need to do is to seek medical help. You need to know that you have the right to file a complaint. MIT has an obligation to you. They are to prohibit retaliation and provide information about formal and informal process. You can reach out to a Title IX Coordinator or a deputy. All are trained the same and will be able to assist you. You can go to our new website also http://sexualmisconduct.mit.edu/. Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed with everyone you speak with but can be supported under VPR (Violence Prevention and Response) or such.

The Title IX Coordinators can be found in most departments. All are trained the same so reaching out to any of these team members would be able to assist you. Title IX Coordinators are Alison Alden (for employees) and Barbara Baker (for student). A complete list of deputies can be found at http://sexualmisconduct.mit.edu/title-ix-coordinators.

Title IX process for Internal Grievance Procedure is modeled under The Equality Principle which is the principle under which all people are subject to the same laws of justice (due process). The COD has processes consisting of presenting witnesses, question all and advocating. Since the Dear Colleagues Letter, processes have been updated. We have coordinators and deputies, policies have been revised, we’ve educated the community, we now have a website with information for students and resources available.

False alarms or claims that were not based on facts do occur. For the most part, most assaults are under reported. We report more assaults now than in the past 10 years. Most reported are supported, some anonyms but with a lot of details. Miss reporting can be between 2-4%.

Speaking next was Kate McCarthy, Community Wellness at MIT. Kate McCarthy is part of the Violence Prevention and Response (VPR) team. Kate has been here for 3 years now. Also working with Kate is Kelly Adams and Duane de Four who’s been here 4 years and works part-time. Duane does mostly outreach throughout the community. They are the victim advocates on campus. VPR has been in existence for six years now.

Our hot-line is staffed 24/7. You will get either Kate or Kelly.

(Presentation slides inserted below)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>1st 8 months (May 2011-January 2012)</th>
<th>Spring 2012</th>
<th>Summer 2012</th>
<th>Fall 2012*</th>
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<td>23</td>
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VPR Advocate

- GRT’s
- Ombuds Office
- MIT Police/DA’s Office
- BARCC
- Student Support Services (S^)
- Housing
- Housemasters
- Medical/Mental Health
- Title IX Coordinators
- Athletics
Violence Prevention & Response

- Kelley Adams, advocate and researcher
- Duane de Four, outreach and prevention specialist
- Kate McCarthy, advocate and director