

To: Gustavus task force on sexual misconduct  
From: The Gustavus Adolphus College Student Senate  
Subject: Suggested focal points for the task force  
Date: Monday, April 4, 2016

Dear task force members:

We write to you today on behalf of the Student Senate. In the past few weeks, students have spoken out to all members of the college community to raise concerns with the College's handling of sexual misconduct. We are pleased the administration has listened to these messages and is taking meaningful steps to review and improve the culture and policy around this sensitive subject. Sexual assault is harmful to the community as a whole, especially survivors; it creates an injustice that we must work together to confront. We believe you are the best vehicle for meaningful, sustained change on this topic. We commend your ongoing inclusion of student perspectives, and we look forward to any recommendations you put forth.

Our purpose of reaching out is not an attempt to dictate the task force's charge or recommendations. However, after careful conversation within Student Senate, we call on you to make the following points central to your work:

- A. Focus on survivor well-being. We have heard the difficulties survivors face on a small campus and hope you tirelessly include their perspective in your review and recommendations.
- B. Thoroughly review the sexual misconduct hearing board and the sexual misconduct sanctioning guidelines. Many students particularly doubt the efficacy of the sexual misconduct hearing board's selection and training process.
- C. Maximize transparency of both the task force's progress and the college's sexual misconduct adjudication process. We recommend you keep some sort of public record of the task force's work, and provide an avenue for students to send their concerns and recommendations to your team.
- D. Review and advocate for an increase in consent education, both in and beyond first-year orientation.

In addition, we request a regular report back to Student Senate and the student body in whatever medium you choose in order to share your progress with interested students and to allow for productive feedback. We invite a student member of your team to report out to Student Senate as often as you see fit during the Community Comment portion of our meetings, held at 7:00 PM each Monday in the Board Room.

We would also be more than willing to assist you at any point in the process if you feel we can be of use. We sincerely thank you for your time as you begin this critical process to ensure our community is an environment that honors the wellbeing of all our students.

Sincerely,

The 2015-2016 Gustavus Adolphus College Student Senate