

## President's Advisory Committee on Sexual Violence (PACSV)

The three-year term for the current DPMG representative on the Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment started July 2017. However, with the heightened sensitivity around sexual violence in the wider society, Dalhousie under the leadership of the then Acting Executive Director for HRES, Arig al Shaibah dissolved this committee in 2016, and developed a new Sexual Violence Strategy which reinstated this committee under a different name. The new committee met for the first time on September 22, 2017 under the name, President's Advisory Committee on Sexual Violence (PACSV). The purpose of this committee is to provide advice on the strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the campus Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Strategy broadly and Sexualized Violence Policy specifically as part of that larger strategy. At this meeting an update relating to developments around the institution's sexual violence strategy, the status of the new Sexual Violence Policy and implications on the work of this Advisory Committee was shared.

Four subsequent meetings were held on January 2018, March 2018, March 2019 and December 2019 respectively. Due to the confidential nature of this committee, details cannot be shared.

Highlights from these meetings are as follows:

- New institutional Sexual Harassment Strategy was shared
- Presentation of annual report data, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019
- Announcement of hiring of new Vice-Provost, Equity & Inclusion, Theresa Rajack-Talley. This committee is now chaired by this portfolio.
- Sexual Violence Policy Review complete and new policy approved June 2019. The policy is very comprehensive and among other things:
  - Applies to students, employees and affiliated visitors
  - Differentiates between disclosure, complaint to university, and reporting to policy
  - Has provisions for witness and anonymous reporting
  - Address work and academic accommodations
  - Includes transparency concerning confidentiality, its limits and processesThe policy can be viewed in its entirety at:

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/human-rights---equity/sexualized-violence-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/human-rights---equity/sexualized-violence-policy.html)

- Discussion on training to facilitate sessions on campus for the new provincial Training sexualized violence bystander program, *Waves of Change*.

submitted by Jascinth Butterfield, 22 June 2020