

CCSGA Full Council Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 3rd

Meeting Start Time: 7:02 p.m.

Meeting End Time: 8:07 p.m.



Student Voices Series

Speaker – McKenna Becker

Co-Chair of SASS – 2nd semester in the position

3 Problems that currently face the campus in regards to sexual assault

1. Issues with the reporting process for sexual assault
2. The lack of training and programs for Faculty and Staff
3. Climate among student groups on campus

1. There is a lack of trust in the reporting process for sexual assault. There is also concern about respect being shown to survivors during the course of the reporting process. When someone files a complaint, there is a complainant and respondent. Faculty or staff members are then assigned to the case and will investigate. They are synonymous with the jury. Staff have mandatory training, however, faculty members do not. Issues have arisen with the fact that the investigators are not properly trained – leading to problematic questions being asked by them. The reaction of the investigators is foundational to the recovery process. In addition, the investigators are people the survivors have to deal with on a daily basis. There is, however, another option; CC can hire/utilize a third party investigator. This could be the SARC on campus or the SARC from UCCS. These individuals have better training and better sensitivity. McKenna recommends using a third party such as this would be extremely beneficial to the process. Another issue is with the Title IX coordinator. A professor in the Sociology department is currently in this position at CC. This professor has conveyed rhetoric that is unacceptable, and has asked problematic questions. Informal complaints have been filed in regards to comments made by this professor during RA training. McKenna expressed great interest in removing this professor from the position.

2. Training needs to be a lot more in depth, and also needs to be done across the board with every CC employee. The largest priority, however, is that each RLC needs more training. The RLC's live in the dorms, and they are one of the first responders to a survivor. They do receive training, however, they need more in-depth training. RA's also need a more comprehensive training. McKenna recommends a 25-hour training in trauma informed care for all relevant staff members, and an abbreviated version for the RA's. Several students did not feel safe when approaching their RLC. Training could transition us from being reactive to preventative. There are currently 3 confidential resources on campus – Chaplain's, SARC, and Boettcher. The Butler Center is also in the process of hiring a new position that will be a confidential resource. Colleges that are the same size as CC have up to 6 SARC's. McKenna expressed interest in having at least one more SARC.

She also wants an expansion of the wellness resource center. The office of the SARC is also lacking. At Boettcher, it takes about two weeks to get an appointment with a counselor. We also need someone in Boettcher who is trained to talk to people about sexual assault. In addition, Boettcher has a lot of issues when people get tested for STI's. They refuse to test people if they don't have symptoms. They have also misdiagnosed many problems as a result of using outdated tests. At Boettcher, you get six free counseling sessions; it would be nice to have six free STI tests. There also needs to be more training for students during NSO. Incorporating a workshop on sexual assault during orientation would be ideal. SASS brought in Planned Parenthood, and they asked groups on campus to send one member to learn about sexual assault. This member could then go back to their groups and teach preventative practices for sexual assault. McKenna hopes that this can continue moving forward

3. 'SOSS' used to be an advocacy group and had a 24-hour hotline. They removed the application, and they are now educational. They are now more of a healing space for survivors of sexual assault. There is need for an advocacy group on campus – trained, confidential resources, etc. – that survivors can go to. CC needs more allies and advocates. McKenna wants an advocacy group that has applications and has a mandatory training session each semester. UNC and Amherst have great programs that we could model after this. 'SOSS' used to run the hotline because there was no SARC, and the hotline fell out of place because a SARC was hired. When SASS has programs, they typically see the same 12 people. These people are already informed. They tried to reach out to sports teams and Greek life, but they always wondered "why us." We also need to grasp the reality of who does need our training, and target these specific groups. They would like to incorporate more men into the discussion.

For next Wednesday, the Butler Center has asked that we bring visiting students to class. Volunteers – Lily, Annika, Steven, Ariel, McKenna, Norberto, Annie, Aaron, and Beau