

Queen's Sexual Violence Policy Community Meetings
October 17th and 23rd, 2019

Deputy Provost Teri Shearer recently held two open community meetings to allow faculty, staff, and students to share their comments and concerns about the May 2019 revisions to the [Policy on Sexual Violence Involving Queen's University Students](#). The many thoughtful and constructive contributions of those who attended these meetings will help to inform the university's next steps in relation to the policy. A brief summary of the comments follows.

1) Consultations and Drafting

Some students and student groups do not feel they were adequately consulted before the policy and related procedures were decided upon and drafted, and/or they were not aware of the consultations that took place.

2) Communication of Policy and Procedures

Some students (particularly) and faculty/staff do not believe the policy and procedures have been communicated to the community adequately / in accessible language. Suggestions were made about how students can be reached effectively in the future.

3) Notification Requirement (Section 8.8)

Some students and faculty/staff object to the requirement in s. 8.8 of the Policy for an employee who receives a disclosure to notify the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator. They believe this requirement disempowers students, takes away their autonomy, and may inhibit disclosures and requests for help.

Some students and faculty/staff believe employees should have more training about ways to provide support and information about community resources rather than being required to notify the Coordinator.

There are concerns the notification requirement is designed to protect the university and not students.

There is confusion about what is and is not a "disclosure" and when notification is and is not required.

5.4. (To) Disclose: to share information about an incident of Sexual Violence with the University for the purpose of receiving support, counselling or accommodation or to obtain information about how to make a Complaint.

8.8. All University employees who are not health care providers and who have received a Disclosure shall immediately notify the SVPRC and shall answer the SVPRC's inquiries about the Disclosure. A notification to the SVPRC alone does not initiate a formal process.

4) Identification Requirement in Mandatory Reporting Form

Some students and faculty/staff object to the identification requirement in the online form used to implement the notification requirement, which they feel is a breach of privacy that could endanger students.

There is confusion about when identifying information must be included in the notification form and whether / how the person making the notification can advise the Coordinator not to contact an identified student because of safety concerns.

There are concerns about the ease of use of the form, where the data may be housed, and the automated response received by an employee after making a notification.

5) Culture / Prevention

Many speakers are concerned about the culture at Queen's and suggested that more efforts should be made to prevent sexual violence rather than simply to respond to it.