

**MTSU CAMPUS NON-VIOLENCE COMMITTEE**  
**2016-17**  
**YEAR-END REPORT**

**MEETINGS AND ATTENDEES**

During Academic Year 2016-17, the Campus Non-Violence Committee (CNVC) met for the first time on September 7, 2016, at which time Ariana Postlethwait assumed responsibilities of Chairperson. Carl Ostrowski became Secretary. The committee met three times each semester, with the last meeting held on April 10, 2017. Committee members were

Faculty Reps (2016-2018)

Carl Ostrowski , English  
Amy York, Library

Faculty Reps (2015-2017)

Horace Johns, Accounting  
Joshua Phillips, Computer Science  
Ariana Postlethwait, Social Work

Student Reps (2016-2017)

Stephanie Carpenter, Student Rep (RA)  
Darrian Harlan, SGA Rep

Carol Clark  
Buddy Peaster  
Carolyn Jackson  
Dan Kelley  
Jeremy Ancar  
Doug Brinkso  
Barbara Scales  
Daniel Green  
Diane Turnham  
Jackie Victory  
Amy Dean  
Marian Wilson  
Sondra Wade  
Zimmerman)  
Heidi Zimmerman  
Glenn Wallace

Human Resources Rep  
Director, University Police  
Counseling Serv. Rep  
Student Affairs Rep  
Academic Affairs Rep  
Environmental Health Rep  
Director, June Women's Ctr  
Intercultural Div. Affairs  
Athletic Rep  
Student Affairs Rep  
Sexual Assault Intervention  
Inst. Equity & Compliance  
University Council (replaced)  
  
University Council  
Community Rep

**OVERVIEW**

The overarching question for the academic year was how to most effectively increase about sexual assault awareness and prevention. We started the academic year with a discussion about the greatest needs. More bystander education and training to reduce violence and sexual assault was the biggest need identified by multiple committee members. A number of hurdles exist to reaching more students more frequently. These challenges are not new:

- Optional trainings are often poorly attended
- Some groups of students are more challenging to reach (e.g., non-traditional students, part-time students, those living in off-campus housing, transfer students)
- Resources to produce a bystander PSA
- Committee members/volunteers to assist with events
- Large gap in committee work between the end of the spring semester and when the committee meets in the Fall for the first time, approximately 5 months later.

**PROJECTS**

**Refuse To Be A Victim Training**

The primary project in the fall was the RTBAV training, conducted by Lt. Jon Leverette on November 3, 2016. (Materials for 300 participants were purchased in the previous academic year.) Approximately

45 participants completed the training and had generally positive feedback. The remaining training manuals were returned to MTSU Police Department for future trainings.

### **Ongoing Bystander Prevention Efforts**

Having a strong PSA on non-violence has been a goal for multiple years and will finally occur during the summer of 2017. MTSU was awarded an Avon grant for \$10,000 for bystander education. Some of these funds will be used in the summer to film a PSA on bystander prevention of violence and sexual assault. Avon grant funds were also used to hire two students who are working on a social media campaign

Barbara Scales informed the CNVC of the many bystander training sessions conducted this academic year. Student populations reached included SGA, RAs, the Presidium (student organizations' president's retreat), student athletes, Greek organizations, writing center tutors, and new GAs. Some training was administered to UNIV 1010 classes by invitation as well as online. Barbara noted that the cost of online bystander training is difficult to justify if enough students do not avail themselves of it. Note: Although not directly sponsored by the CNVC these efforts relate to the committee's focus on bystander training.

### **FUTURE PROJECTS**

All agreed establishing a dedicated website should be a major objective in the forthcoming year.

The CNVC wants to develop some kind of fund in the name of MTSU basketball player Tina Stewart, who died in a domestic violence incident in 2011.

The CNVC will establish a presence at Connection Point events before the fall semester starts, but this is difficult due to faculty serving on ten-month contracts. Fortunately students hired by Avon grant can assist as well as a newer student group, the Nonviolence Brigade which is currently lead by CNVC Student Representative Stephanie Carpenter.

The CNVC wants to obtain a budget to support groups and further promote the committee's presence on campus. Groups on campus wishing to stage events related to the CNVC's charge could then apply to the committee for funding. Ariana Postlethwait, outgoing Chair will draft a budget proposal for consideration by Dr. Sells.

Amy Dean and Marion Wilson are developing a plan to meet with off-campus housing partners regarding the "Where is Angela?" poster campaign over the summer.

MTSU reapplied for federal funds through the VAWA (Violence Against Women Act). It is highly likely this grant will be funded. Funds would go a long way to further the committee's charge.

**Submitted on May 19, 2017 by Ariana Postlethwait, Chair.**

# **APPENDIX**

## **CNVC MEETING MINUTES**

### **ACADEMIC YEAR 2016-2017**

**Campus Non-Violence Committee Meeting Minutes (Draft)**

Date: September 7, 2016

Location: SUB 210

Present: Carl Ostrowski, Joshua Phillips, Ariana Postlethwait, Stephanie Carpenter, Buddy Peaster, Carolyn Jackson, Danny Kelley, Jeremy Ancar, Daniel Green, Diane Turnham, Jackie Victory, Amy Dean, Heidi Zimmerman, Glenn Wallace

Not present: Horace Johns, Darrian Harlan, Carol Clark, Doug Brinsko, Barbara Scales, Marian Wilson

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

Members of the committee introduced themselves.

Danny Kelley read the committee charge.

The committee elected Ariana Postlethwait as chair for AY 2016-17.

The committee discussed two unfinished projects from the previous year:

One project was the production of a video on the subject of bystander intervention in situations involving violence, sexual assault, harassment, etc.

- Production cost estimate: \$15,000
- American University has produced a prototype/model
- The committee discussed soliciting help from the College of Media and Entertainment as well as MTSU Athletics
- The committee will continue to investigate the practicality of creating an MTSU bystander intervention video.

A second project involved supporting/implementing the Refuse to Be a Victim training.

- Materials were purchased last year and are in possession of the committee
- The committee discussed possible dates and venues for such training (noting that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month)
- The committee identified Greek and athlete student populations as potential partners/participants
- on Leverette of MTSU police is certified to lead this training
- The committee considered making bands or buttons available to participants
- The committee discussed publicity options as well as optimal timing of event

Members of the committee agreed to pursue various tasks related to scheduling, publicity, logistics, etc. to ensure that the training takes place in late October or early November.

Other business:

- Amy Dean emphasized the need to reach junior and senior student populations with non-violence messages.
- Buddy Peaster noted the value of achieving better continuity from year to year in implementing non-violence awareness programs.

The committee's next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by Carl Ostrowski, Secretary

**Campus Non-Violence Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 5, 2016

Location: SUB 210

Present: Carl Ostrowski, Ariana Postlethwait, Stephanie Carpenter, Carol Clark, Carolyn Jackson, Danny Kelley, Jeremy Ancar, Daniel Green, Marian Wilson

Not present: Joshua Phillips, Buddy Peaster, Horace Johns, Darrian Harlan, Doug Brinsko, Barbara Scales, Diane Turnham, Jackie Victory, Amy Dean, Heidi Zimmerman, Glenn Wallace

Marian Wilson noted that MTSU was awarded a \$10,000 Avon Grant thanks to the efforts of a five-member grant request team. The project involves capturing public service announcements generated by students, which might serve as content for this committee's proposed bystander awareness video.

MTSU is also going to apply in the spring for a \$300,000 grant through the Office of Violence Against Women (a federal initiative). She needs information on all non-violence initiatives on campus. Should this grant be acquired, she asked the non-violence committee to consider how it might make use of these funds.

Refuse to be a Victim (R2BV) training is now scheduled for Thursday, November 3:

10:00 a.m. to noon in KUC theater and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in BAS S102

- o Stephanie Carpenter volunteered to be present at the evening training.
- o Dan Kelley will be present at the morning session. He will also coordinate publicity for the training among student organizations.

Marian Wilson noted that number of sexual misconduct incidents has been going up annually at MTSU, and that the largest per-month number of incidents occurs in September. She asked the committee what might be done to combat this trend.

- o Stephanie Carpenter suggested setting up R2BV training for earlier next year.
- o Marian said next year students will get a phone jacket with Sexual Assault Office Resource Cards and information about active shooter situations.
- o Marian noted that based on a climate survey, students are not confident about the university's ability to handle/arbitrate such incidents.
- o Carolyn Jackson suggesting that Counseling Services could set up a table at CUSTOMS.

Stephanie Carpenter informed the committee that the Student Government Association was attempting to clarify recent legislation involving safe spaces. (Students should be aware that safe spaces are not the same thing as safe zones.)

Dan Kelley distributed Non-Violence Committee buttons (which may be given out at the R2BV training).

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed.

Ariana Postlethwait asked the committee to brainstorm ideas for reducing September sexual misconduct incidents in time for the next meeting.

The next meeting of the committee was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, at the same time (10:30 a.m.).

Submitted by Carl Ostrowski, Secretary

**Campus Non-Violence Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: November 8, 2016

Location: SUB 210

Present: Ariana Postlethwait, Danny Kelley, Doug Brinsko, Jackie Victory, Heidi Zimmerman, Stephanie Carpenter, Barbara Scales, Brooke Burns, Glenn Wallace, Joshua Phillips, Carl Ostrowski, Mariam Wilson

Not Present: Carol Clark, Carolyn Jackson, Jeremy Ancar, Buddy Peaster, Horace Johns, Darrian Harlan, Diane Turnham, Amy Dean, Daniel Green

Update on November 3<sup>rd</sup> Refuse to be a Victim trainings: 70 students attended over both sessions

Report from Barbara Scales on the conference she and Amy Dean attended in October

--Barbara emphasized the importance of having a strong PSA on non-violence available to students. Other universities sponsor events once a year, often during summer; videos can also be effective.

--Barbara informed the committee about the "Where's Angela?" campaign: "Where's Angela" is code that indicates a person is in an uncomfortable situation in a public place and is requesting assistance. Bar and restaurant employees know to help an individual who makes such an inquiry to safely leave the building. Posters are available.

--MTSU received a \$10,000 Avon Grant to deal with bystander education and will send a contingent to the training session in Atlanta. The CSIL office will make a video and hire students to promote the issue on social media.

Ariana Postlethwait asked about the next steps for the committee. Heidi Zimmerman suggested the committee consider branding itself more effectively than at present.

--CSIL has a logo and will have something ready to go in time for spring CUSTOMS.

The committee discussed additional media for promoting its message including table tents (Aramark prefers fliers that fit within napkin holders), bus posters, posters for our "office-campus partners" (sixteen apartment complexes), and quilts (this was the medium employed in a project several years ago).

Stephanie Carpenter suggested a contest in which students make and post videos on the subject of violence prevention. Jackie Victory thought that a booth for recording such videos could be set up at the SGA student appreciation day in the spring.

The next meeting will take place early in the spring semester.

Submitted by Carl Ostrowski, Secretary

Campus Non-Violence Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 6, 2017

Location: SUB 210

Present: Stephanie Carpenter, Carol Clark, Amy Dean, Carl Ostrowski (Secretary), Joshua Phillips, Ariana Postlethwait (Chair), Jackie Victory, Sondra Wade

Not Present: Jeremy Ancar, Doug Brinkso, Daniel Green, Darrian Harlan, Carolyn Jackson, Dan Kelley, Buddy Peaster, Diane Turnham, Barbara Scales, Glenn Wallace, Marian Wilson

The minutes for November 8, 2016 were approved.

Ariana Postlethwait noted that the Power of One logo will appear on future documents/posters associated with this committee.

Ariana updated the committee on the status of ideas for additional violence prevention/awareness activities in the future, including posting information on napkin holders in student dining areas and mounting posters in various campus areas. Marian Wilson is looking into placing posters on campus buses.

The committee had discussed creating a Campus Non-Violence Committee presence at CUSTOMS. Jackie Victory suggested that the committee would need to develop a specific plan before approaching CUSTOMS about the possibility.

Amy Dean notes that presenters at the ATIXA Conference (Association of Title Nine Administrators) identified bystander training programs as the best way to reduce campus violence, with posters and visual aids to be considered a secondary option.

Amy Dean updated the committee on the ten thousand dollar Avon Grant, which is being used to produce an MTSU-specific eight to ten minute video on bullying, bystander intervention, and similar issues. Public service announcements of thirty seconds to one minute may also be produced on consent and violence prevention, for posting on various MTSU websites.

Amy Dean informed the committee that she is working on a three hundred thousand dollar grant from the U.S. Office of Violence Against Women. MTSU is applying for the third year, and has been encouraged to reapply by the granting agency. We will know by the fall of 2017 if the grant has been acquired.

Jackie Victory and Ariana Postlethwait expressed enthusiasm for bringing the “Where’s Angela” campaign to local student-frequented bars. Jackie noted the difficulty of recruiting bars into the program. Ariana suggested the possibility of somehow making it an EXL project. Joshua thought a student could compile a list of bars and survey the willingness of owners/staff to participate. Jackie said she would raise the issue with the Chamber of Commerce.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 13, at the same time (1:00).

Submitted by Carl Ostrowski, Secretary

## **Campus Non-Violence Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 13, 2017

Location: SUB 210

Present: Stephanie Carpenter, Carl Ostrowski (Secretary), Joshua Phillips, Ariana Postlethwait (Chair), Jackie Victory, Sondra Wade

Not Present: Jeremy Ancar, Doug Brinkso, Carol Clark, Amy Dean, Daniel Green, Darrian Harlan, Carolyn Jackson, Dan Kelley, Buddy Peaster, Diane Turnham, Barbara Scales, Glenn Wallace, Marian Wilson

**Note: A quorum was not in attendance.**

The minutes from the meeting of February 7, 2017 were approved as written.

### **Old business/updates**

- Barbara and Marian are working with creative visuals and Aramark to prepare napkin holder fliers for sexual assault awareness month.
- Students have been hired to develop a social media campaign and a bystander video in conjunction with the AVON Grant.
- Amy Dean and Marian Wilson are developing a plan to meet with off-campus housing partners for the “Where is Angela?” posters.

### **New business**

The committee discussed various ways to ensure a smoother transition from one academic year to the next. Traditionally, the CNVC has not had its first meeting and elected a chair until September, whereas some important non-violence events take place before this. Problems and some potential solutions were identified:

How can the CNVC establish a presence at future connection point events?

- Faculty on 10-month contracts cannot be required to attend summer meetings.
- Perhaps committee members can be identified/contacted earlier in AY.
- The outgoing chair could provide a list of duties/guide to incoming chair.

The committee discussed the possibility of acquiring a budget in the future, in order to disburse funds to relevant non-violence promotions or activities. Dr. Sells will be contacted about this:

- Do other committees like this one have operating budgets?
- Could the committee apply for a grant?

The committee discussed the possibility of creating a Campus Non-Violence Committee website that would aggregate information about relevant events (training, classes, speakers, etc.) happening across campus. Creating this website might become a particular goal of next year’s committee:

- Future committees could collect information and regularly update the website.
- Such a website could be linked to the True Blue Pledge site.

The next meeting was set for Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m. in STU 210.



## **Campus Non-Violence Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: April 10, 2017

Location: SUB 210

Present: Jeremy Ancar, Stephanie Carpenter, Carol Clark, Amy Dean, Daniel Green, Carl Ostrowski (Secretary), Joshua Phillips, Ariana Postlethwait (Chair), Barbara Scales, Diane Turnham, Jackie Victory, Glenn Wallace, Marian Wilson, Jason Wofford (representing the University Police), Amy York  
Not Present: Doug Brinkso, Darrian Harlan, Carolyn Jackson, Dan Kelley

The minutes from the meeting of March 13, 2017 were approved as written.

The committee discussed the need to make a smoother transition from the end of one academic year to the beginning of the next:

- The outgoing chair will provide a list of guidelines/duties for the incoming chair.
- Ariana Postlethwait reported that she had asked Wendi Watts if it was possible for the outgoing chair to receive a list of next year's committee members. The faculty senate is working on this issue for the future, but such a list will not be available this year. That information will be made available to the outgoing chair a few weeks before the semester starts.
- The committee would like to establish a presence at Connection Point events before the fall semester starts, but this is difficult due to faculty serving on ten-month contracts.

Barbara Scales informed the committee of the many bystander training sessions conducted this academic year. Student populations reached include SGA, RAs, the presidium (student organizations' president's retreat), student athletes, Greek organizations, writing center tutors, and new GAs. Some training was administered to UNIV 1010 classes by invitation as well as online. Barbara noted that the cost of online bystander training is difficult to justify if enough students do not avail themselves of it.

A hashtag "Baywatch" Connection Point event will take place next year involving gender- and power-based violence prevention. Students are working on a video, which may be available by May 18, in time for summer 2017 CUSTOMS events.

The committee reached a consensus that establishing a dedicated website should be a major objective in the forthcoming year:

- Joshua Phillips noted the value of establishing an independent website so that the committee can maintain control over its content (as opposed to going through the staff who oversee the True Blue website, for whom the contact person would be Student Affairs IT specialist Vicki Sargent). The hard work will involve building the initial website; after that, updating the website from year to year will be relatively uncomplicated.
- Jackie suggested that the website could aggregate all non-violence events happening around campus.
- The committee discussed the possibility of obtaining a budget. Agencies on campus wishing to stage non-violence events could then apply to the committee with funding proposals. Dr. Sells (Vice President for Student Affairs) would probably be the appropriate person to field the committee's request to establish a budget. Pat Branam of the Development Office was also suggested.
- Diane Turnham suggested establishing some kind of fund in the name of MTSU women's basketball player Tina Stewart (who died in a domestic violence incident in 2011).
- Ariana Postlethwait graciously volunteered to begin drafting a proposal for funding.

The meeting—the final one of the academic year—was adjourned.