Ad Hoc Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Committee (SARP)

Whereas, faculty are troubled by sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct at the University of Richmond and the related social norms, cultural practices, and institutional policies,

Whereas, faculty have requested a holistic, independent assessment of institutional arrangements and practices at the University of Richmond that may impact, both positively and negatively, a “rape culture” and sexual assault and misconduct,

Noting that Article I.B.4 of the Faculty Senate Charter empowers the Senate to provide “recommendations to the appropriate bodies on student activities that affect students in two or more schools,”

Noting further that Article I.C.6 empowers the Senate to “consult with the administration regarding non-academic decisions that may have a direct impact on the academic life of the faculty and students through the established committee structure,”

Resolved, the Senate hereby establishes the Ad Hoc Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Committee, pursuant to Articles IV.B.1.a. and IV.B.3, with the following charge:

The Ad Hoc Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Committee (SARP) is charged with a comprehensive assessment of the sexual assault and misconduct policies and procedures and the related social norms and practices at the University of Richmond, and providing related recommendations.

Resolved, consistent with the Senate’s Committee Policy, the SARP committee shall consist of four faculty members from the School of Arts & Sciences, two from the Robins School of Business, one from the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, one from the Law School, and one from the School of Professional & Continuing Studies.

Resolved, Committee members shall be nominated by the Senate’s Committee on Committees and approved by the Senate.

Resolved, the ad hoc SARP Committee will be faculty led but involve extensive and thorough engagement with students, faculty, administrators, staff, and alumni.

Resolved, consistent with the requirement that ad hoc committees be given a defined period of work, the Committee shall begin its work on October 15, 2016 and report on its progress by April 3, 2017.

Resolved, at the conclusion of their work, the SARP Committee shall produce a written report to be delivered to the Faculty Senate and made available to the University community.
Resolved, in order to fulfill its charge and reporting obligations, the SARP Committee may

- Inventory resources, including full-time specialized professional staff, dedicated to sexual assault and misconduct prevention and care for survivors
- Assess current policies, procedures, and structures for responding to sexual assault and misconduct claims, including whether the procedures are adequate to address these problems without compromising fundamental due process rights
- Examine the specific social settings on UR’s campus that may promote or fail to prevent sexual assault
- Assess the relationships between sexual assault and alcohol and drugs
- Examine internal norms and subculture of any organization on or off campus that may promote or fail to combat a culture of sexual objectification
- Evaluate the impacts of the coordinate college system, including any gendered housing arrangements, on relationships amongst students
- Consider whether or to what extent education concerning issues of gender (including sexual assault and misconduct) should be incorporated into required university curriculum
- Examine best practices in all of the above areas at peer institutions
- Consider a Center for Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Services as proposed in the 2015 report from two UR students, Whitney Schwalm and Gemma Pansch,
- Consider the 8-Point Plan to Address Sexual Assault on Campus from the WGSS Advisory Board

Approved on September 28, 2016 by a unanimous vote of Senators.

Membership
Kim Marie Goldrick (RSB)
Tze Loo (A&S), co-chair
Sara Pappas (A&S)
Dan Roberts (SPCS)
Kimberly Robinson (Law), co-chair
Peter Smallwood (A&S)
Tricia Stohr Hunt (A&S)
Steve Thompson (RSB)
Thad Williamson (JSLS)