



**University of Mary Washington  
President's Task Force on Sexual Assault**

**Update on Report and Recommendations**

**May 8, 2017**

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Dear President Paino,

In December 2014, Dr. Hurley, who was President of the University of Mary Washington at the time, created a Task Force to focus on the topic of sexual assault and misconduct at the University of Mary Washington. He charged a group of 22 faculty, staff, and students with the important task of evaluating the university's current policies and practices related to sexual violence in order to inform institutional improvement. The overarching goal of the Task Force was to ensure that the university's practices and policies meet or exceed best practice. After 14 months of diligent evaluation and consideration, we submitted the final Task Force Report to Dr. Hurley on March 15, 2016.

During Spring 2017, eight faculty and staff reconvened as a committee to evaluate the status of each of the prior recommendations and to put forward new priorities. Below you will see that we have identified three categories of recommendations: (1) recommendations the University of Mary Washington has accomplished, (2) recommendations the University of Mary Washington is currently in the process of implementing, and (3) unmet recommendations the committee has identified as high priority. Please note that there are recommendations in the Task Force report that are not listed in one of these three categories. The unlisted recommendations have been identified as being of lower priority.

We also recommend that a long-standing committee on sexual assault be established. The charge for this committee will be to meet three times per academic year to review the current best practices related to sexual assault on college campuses, to evaluate the current University of Mary Washington practices and policies, and to update the list of priorities with an eye toward continuing to improve our approach to addressing sexual assault on campus. We would also like to invite you to attend our first meeting in the Fall 2017 to continue this important conversation. Together, we believe we can continue to improve our prevention of and response to sexual assault at the University of Mary Washington

Sincerely,

Laura Wilson, Psychological Science (Committee Chair)  
Terri Arthur, Human Resources  
Mike Hall, Chief of Police  
Sabrina Johnson, Human Resources  
Marissa Miller, Student Conduct and Office of Title IX  
Tiffany Oldfield, Office of Title IX  
Melissa Palguta, Talley Center  
Ray Tuttle, Student Conduct and Responsibility

**Recommendations the University of Mary Washington has accomplished:**

1. UMW holds periodic open forums, information sessions, and awareness activities on the topic of sexual assault.
2. All students complete the online course, “*Think About It*” provided by Campus Clarity.
3. All new faculty and staff are trained upon hire during their initial day-long orientation.
4. Students receive training at first-year orientation and new student arrival on bystander intervention and UMW policy.
5. All UMW police officers receive training on how to receive a complaint from a victim/survivor.
6. A University climate survey is conducted every 2 years.
7. The Board of Visitors and Cabinet receive training on the topic of sexual assault.
8. Support groups for sexual assault survivors are provided through the Talley Center.
9. All faculty and staff (e.g., judicial affairs, residence life, Talley Center, health center, Title IX, police) who regularly interact with sexual assault survivors complete a series of trainings on relevant issues and procedures.
10. UMW has Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with local agencies.
11. UMW has adopted the Civil Rights investigative model for incidents of sexual assault and misconduct.
12. UMW has a full-time Title IX investigator.
13. A comprehensive review of all police department procedures, including the investigative practices of sexual assault victim reporting, was completed this year.
14. A review of investigative and grievance procedures was completed in August, 2016 and reviewed by the Board of Visitors.
15. The Title IX Office and police department procedures clearly explain the coordination of criminal and administrative investigations.
16. Templates for standard communications at different relevant stages of the administrative Title IX investigation (receipt of complaint, notice to parties, findings, interim measures, resources, etc.) have been implemented using Maxient.
17. The language in UMW’s policy concerning sexual consent and use of gender pronouns was revised in August, 2016.
18. The Amnesty Policy, related to use of alcohol or other drugs, was expanded to increase protections for victims/survivors.
19. A link to information about “It’s On Us,” UMW’s bystander intervention campaign, was added to the UMW policy.

**Recommendations the University of Mary Washington is currently in the process of implementing:**

1. The climate survey data from the last survey are available and pending approval to be distributed.
2. The use of the words “victim,” “survivor,” and “complainant” in the UMW policy has been reviewed, revised, and is awaiting approval.
3. The addition of a “purpose statement,” inclusion of URLs for off-campus resources, and the language related to sexual exploitation in the UMW policy will be reviewed and revised this month by the Title IX office.

**Unmet recommendations the committee has identified as high priority:**

1. The University should hire a law enforcement officer with advanced, specialized training in conducting Title IX investigations to lead criminal related investigations and to serve as liaison to administrative investigations, as needed.
2. New, updated informational flyers and brochures about the UMW policy and survivor resources need to be created and posted throughout campus.
3. An “emergency information” link should be created for the university’s online homepage to include resources and information related to sexual assault, suicide, medical emergencies, non-sexual crime, missing students, campus threat, etc.
4. UMW should increase the number of trained, licensed clinical providers at the Talley Center for Counseling Services.
5. The University should expand the services at the Talley Center to include part-time students.
6. All clinical providers at the Talley Center should be formally trained in evidence-based trauma therapies.