



Senate Bill 4
of the 2015-2016 Session

Recommendation to Support First Year Critical Thinking in Sexuality and Charter Related Task Force

Introduced by
Jazz Silva, Student Association President, 2015-2016
Colin Shaw, Duncan College President, 2015-2016
Wednesday, October 28th, 2015

Passed on
Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Presiding Officer Jazz Silva

Whereas, the results of the Survey of Unwanted Experiences were released on September 21st, 2015, showing 24% of undergraduate women and 7% of undergraduate men reported instances of unwanted sexual contact;

Whereas, there is an spike in sexual assault cases during the month of September, coinciding with the matriculation of first year students;

Whereas, Rice matriculants have greatly varied amounts of knowledge relating to sexual education, consent, and healthy sexuality;

Whereas, comprehensive sexual education is not provided in many states, and medically accurate sexual education information is only mandatory in 19 states and the District of Columbia;

Whereas, current sexual wellbeing programming at Rice centers on active consent as the driving principle of healthy sexual interactions;

Whereas, current campus climate does not promote open and continued discussions of sexual assault prevention much beyond the span of O-Week or voluntary seminars;

Whereas, a safe sexual environment is formed through conversations that include a greater understanding of healthy relationships, critical thinking in concepts of sexual education and sexuality, and how these concepts relate to campus values;

Whereas, there the Rice community demands programming related to sexual wellness and violence prevention;

Resolved, that the Student Association supports such programming that will further the goal of uniform, comprehensive sexual education for first year students;

Resolved, The Critical Thinking in Sexuality Task Force shall be created with the charter of developing a course addressing sexual education and healthy sexuality for first year students;

Resolved, upon completion of the course, students should have a thorough understanding of: (a) differences between healthy and unhealthy romantic and non-romantic relationships, (b) different perspectives on sexuality and sex, and (c) common safe-sex practices, (d) bystander intervention techniques, and (e) sexual assault prevention;

Resolved, The Critical Thinking in Sexuality Task Force shall work closely with existing campus resources, including the Women's Resource Center, Wellness Center, Students Transforming Rice into a Violence-Free Environment (STRIVE), and the Queer Resource Center, to further these educational objectives;

Resolved, The Critical Thinking in Sexuality Task Force membership shall consist of several undergraduate representatives who, together the Faculty Senate, the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum, and the Office of the Provost, shall develop and implement such a program;

Resolved, The Critical Thinking in Sexuality Task Force shall be chaired by Jazz Silva, SA President;

Resolved, The Critical Thinking in Sexuality Task Force members currently include the following students with additional members to be appointed by the Student Association President and confirmed by the Student Association Senate, or by majority vote of the Student Association Senate,

Colin Shaw, President, Duncan College;

Angela Masciale, President, Hanszen College;

Cristell Perez, Women's Resource Center Coordinator, Baker College;

James Carter, General Student Body Representative, Brown College;

Ramee Saleh, New Student Representative, Sid Richardson College; and,

Resolved, that the Task Force will present details of the course for Senate support through voting procedure after the CUC and other stakeholders have compiled a curriculum outline;

Resolved, that the Task Force will also present its final recommendations to all other appropriate stakeholders; and,

Resolved, the Task Force shall dissolve May, 2016.