

Sexual Health

Student groups and Title IX provide sex resources

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Staff, faculty and students have taken up the conversation around sexual health in student groups and courses. Along with conversations, Augustana provides a variety of sexual health resources.

Dr. Jessica Nodulman is the assistant professor of communications affiliated with public health and women and gender studies. Her Communications 405 class last term started the SEXpectations campaign on campus.

The goal of SEXpectations “was to destigmatize talking about sex. Everyone is talking about sex, but the goal was to get people to talk about consensual sex,” said Nodulman.

The SEXpectations campaign hosted several talks in this school year’s winter term, like the Wallenberg Crawl and Westie Talks.

When Nodulman’s class finished, the conversations on sexual health continued in other groups, like +IMPACT.

+IMPACT is a student organization that works with sexual assault and bystander intervention. Junior Catherine Priebe, the vice president of +IMPACT, explained, “+IMPACT was created about two and a half years ago by two students who had study abroad to India. They saw social issues there, such as violence against women, that could be relevant to the Augustana campus.”

Priebe said, “We put on events such as the sexual health fair and then the free STD testings that are put on on campus.”

Priebe continued by saying that even though these are popular events +IMPACT puts on, +IMPACT does not have the resources or people to do more events such as free STD testing more frequently on campus.

The Title IX Student Advisory Committee is another student group that is a resource on campus. The committee is composed of 25 students from different backgrounds. Senior Kaylee Sye, one of the co-chairs of the Title IX Student Advisory Committee, said in an email, “We recruited students in a way that we could represent the whole student body.”

“Essentially what we do is we represent the student body when it comes to giving the Title IX Team opinions or suggestions on Title IX related things that either we bring to their attention or they bring to us,” Sye said in an email.

Each member in the committee had to go through certain training, such as reading the Title IX policy before they met as a group with Sheri Curran, the legal coun-



Thea Gonzales/WatchTower Team

Dr. Lena Hann holds a conversation with students. Hann participated in the 3rd annual Sexual Health Education Fair in Gavle Room 3 on April 10, 2019

sel of the school, to ask any questions for clarification.

This committee provides general clarification of Augustana’s Title IX process. Sye said, “I know personally, this year I have had many conversations with students in person and via email answering questions to help clarify certain aspects of the Title IX policy. Students can access us by emailing either me or the other co chair, Abby Rose. We are working to get an email account for the group, hopefully that will be in use at the beginning of next year.”

Since both Sye and Rose are graduating, the committee is in the process of electing new co-chairs. Once that has been voted on Sye believes the announcement will go out via email.

The Title IX team is another resource for students. The sexual health and violence prevention coordinator, Emilee Goad said in an email, “Students can receive a variety of services through the Title IX process. First and foremost, they offer resources and support, both on and off campus. Whether that is counseling services, medical advocacy or types of academic assistance – the main focus is providing access to the resources a student feels they need to feel safe and able to continue their education at Augustana.”

Those in the Title IX process want students to know they are there to listen. The associate dean of academic affairs, Jessica Schultz said, “I think a lot of it is helping students understand that we are here for you, we’re here to help you, to support you. To continue to help students understand that for students who are working through the Title IX process, the first thing we do is

say what can we do, here are your resources, here are your options, what do you need, what do you want to do?”

Students who are looking to get in contact with the Title IX team can find information on Augustana’s website or can get in contact with the Title IX Student Advisory Committee. Goad is another resource. Goad said in an email, “My information and the Title IX Coordinators information are in all of the bathrooms on campus. I have posters up with my phone number and office hours all over campus.”

Though, according to Schultz, the best way to promote healthy sexual conversations is through peers. Schultz said, “When we look at the research to look at how to promote and how to really foster a violence free campus, and reduce any type of comments, one of the best ways according to research is for students to talk to other students. And train other students on how to intervene in those situations.”

The school is providing courses to train students to best navigate these conversations. One course is Survivor Advocacy (PSYC-130), which is a 2-credit course taught by staff from Family Resources Survivor Services and focuses on the dynamics and impact of domestic and sexual violence. The other course, By-

stander Intervention (PSYC/SOC/WGS – 135) is a 1-credit course that addresses gender-based violence in our society, introduces students to bystander intervention approaches, and prepares students to provide bystander intervention education to their peers.

If students are interested in the courses, they can contact the professors.

“Both of these courses are by instructor permission,” Goad said in an email. “Stu-

dents can contact me for Bystander Intervention and Dr. Williamson in the Psychology department for Survivor Advocacy.”

Overall with the conversation about sexual health, both Schultz and Goad encourage people to get involved.

Schultz said, “I really invite students that have questions, who have concerns, to reach out and share

those and to have conversation.”

“All of the information is provided to students throughout every year in multiple places like emails, hand-outs, the website, and through student groups,” Goad said in an email, “I think one of the most important things that people need to remember, is that if you don’t know something, all you need to do is ask one of the many people on campus that can help provide the answer or direct you to someone who knows.”

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- Dr. Schultz