



February 20, 2020

3:30 to 5 p.m. 285/289 Student Academic Services Building

Theme: Office of Institutional Equity and SARNCO, the OhioHealth Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio

Attendance: 9+

Welcome/Announcements

- No major updates from Graduate School or Graduate & Professional Admissions

Office of Institutional Equity (Molly Peirano, Director of Education and Engagement):

- Office coordinates response, provides information, and conducts investigations
- OIE created in August 2019, brings together Accessibility, Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity, Protection of Minors, and Title IX functions
- Overview of categories of discrimination at Ohio State and definition. They have a broader list than the State of Ohio. Categories include age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, etc.
- Audience question about Fair Chance clause. OIE is currently reviewing their policies.
- Sexual Misconduct is included as discrimination. Common form of sexual exploitation involves students sharing photos in group chats. Violence threats include the violator threatening self harm.
- Stalking included, defined as two or more incidents where person makes them fear for their safety.
- Pregnancy discrimination: students are protected under Title IX for pregnancy. OIE can provide information on how students can protect themselves.
- Prohibited relationships discussion. These include student/instructor, student/advisor, student-employee or employee and supervisor, student and their TA.
- Discussion of percentage of graduate students affected by sexual assault since enrollment. Statistics shared on undergraduates as well.
- Academic and Professional consequences
- Discussion of appropriate response to a disclosure. This includes support and making clear you are a mandated reporter (must share information with OIE). An alternative confidential resource is SARNCO.
- Sexual assault must be reported immediately. HRP, supervisor, chair/director, faculty member must report other forms of misconduct within five days.
- Reporting and intake: Civil Rights Intake Coordinator will contact the individual. OIE reviews all reports that come in and looks for trends. Discussion of a past incident when multiple reports of druggings came in and a Buckeye Alert/Community Alert was sent out to warn of the pattern.
- Highlights of what OIE provides: can get interim measures with or without an investigation. They can provide academic support, change of work schedule or location assistance. They also assist with visa and immigration services (providing an alternative assignment during an investigation).
- OIE has trained civil rights investigators.
- They focus on prevention, including the required Sexual Misconduct Prevention Education (faculty/staff must complete this in order to be eligible for merit pay increases).





- Undergraduate students must complete “U Got This!” and they are currently working on training for graduate/professional students. OIE also offers in-person trainings.
- OSU App: OIE has resources on this for staff, faculty, and students facing an emergency. They also have mapped out the gender-inclusive restrooms on campus.
- Can now officially put your pronouns and honorific in your email signature (on business cards, too)

SARNCO (Emily Gemar and Suzie Szczepanik, Campus Advocacy Coordinators):

- SARNCO, Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio, is under the OhioHealth Hospital System. It has been around for 20+ years.
- They have a base of volunteers with advocacy training
- Their services include local (Franklin County) and statewide helplines that operate 24/7
- There are 88 counties in Ohio and 32 have rape crisis centers
- Emily and Susie are the only SARNCO advocates at Columbus campus, so they aren’t available 24/7. There are also part-time advocates for OhioHealth.
- Calling the helpline through the OSU App will take you to the appropriate (local or statewide) helpline.
- They also offer 24-hour Hospital Advocacy. Advocates are there for the survivor. They respond to OhioHealth, Mt. Carmel, and OSU East and Main hospitals.
- Also available: Aftercare advocacy. This goes beyond the helpline or hospital intervention.
- Sexual Violence Prevention Education: Comprehensive training options. Green Dot, Bystander Intervention training.
- SARNCO fills the gap left by a previous OSU office. They serve students, faculty, staff, visitors of the Columbus campus (the branch campuses have other resources).
- They serve all survivors of sexual violence (rape, sexual assault, harassment, childhood sexual abuse) that occurred at any time in survivor’s life. Can provide services for off-and on-campus incidents.
- They are employees of OhioHealth and not Ohio State, so they are a confidential option (there are other confidential resources on campus and they are an additional option).
- It is up to the person to disclose what happened, and SARNCO provides non-judgmental response, safety-planning and can provide trauma books (sectioned out so to avoid triggering topics). They can go with students to doctor appointments, to investigation meetings with police. They make sure the survivor knows what to expect and makes an informed choice. Discussion of victims of crime rights. They can also connect survivors to other resources.
- They are located at 33 W. 11th Ave and are open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with open office hours. They can conduct detective interviews there, they do work with survivors via email, and they can schedule alternate times/locations to meet with survivors. They do request that those advocating for a survivor include the survivor on the communication.
- They want to empower survivors, restore their power and voice.
- Discussion of how OIE and SARNCO coexist, with the main difference being that SARNCO are not mandated reporters.
- SARNCO’s services are also available to co-survivors.

For more information and resources from the Association of Graduate & Professional Administrators, visit <http://u.osu.edu/agpa/>

