

May 30, 2016

Dear Future Director of Sexual & Relationship Respect,

I'm so excited for you to begin this position in the fall. This will be the second year of this cabinet position, and I'd highly encourage you to view the resolution (written during the fall of 2014) that created it. The Resolution on Sexual and Relationship Respect is available online through the SGA's website. That document clearly outlines the history of this position, the necessities that created it, as well as your responsibilities within it.

There are a few key players on these issues who are worth getting to know. In my experience, this position requires a lot of liaising between the administration and students. I'd encourage you to set up a meeting with Sue Ritter in the early fall, as Sue is the Title IX Coordinator at Midd. In summary, Sue oversees all of the other administrators working with issues related to sexual respect and sexual assault on campus. Some other key players include Barbara McCall, the health educator that oversees MiddSAFE, and Middlebury's two judicial affairs officers (Karen Guttentag and A.J. Place). It is also worth reaching out to Karin Hanta in Chellis House, as Karin contains a wealth of information regarding the history of sexual misconduct policy at Middlebury from a feminist perspective.

During my term (the spring semester of 2016), I worked with administrators and faculty to co-host a dinner in Atwater entitled the Community Dinner on Sexual and Relationship Respect. The event was cosponsored by the SGA, It Happens Here, and JusTalks. At that dinner, administrators, staff, and students collectively discussed (and outlined their future hopes for) sexual and relationship respect at Middlebury. In the future, administrators have indicated that they would like to use that dinner as a touchstone to develop community standards on interpersonal relationships at Middlebury. You can access our record of that meeting through Dianne DiLoretto, who is an administrative assistant working in the Service Building. I've had several conversations with the Title IX team on healthy norm generation at Midd, and I think that this position could be an interesting platform to begin interrogating our expectations regarding how we treat one another in this community.

Some other interesting future directions to consider for this position involve the community survey. During the spring of 2016, 20% of the student body responded to a survey regarding their experiences with SMDVS (sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking) at Middlebury. As Director, I participated in a focus group to help develop that survey. In the fall of 2016, Barbara McCall will begin to unveil what that data showed us. I'd encourage you to request and review the survey's findings, as this is a critical step in helping us all understand our campus climate better. It's also worth reviewing the annual Clery Report, a

report emailed to the student body annually by Public Safety, as this report contains important data on the findings of all sexual misconduct proceedings during the year prior. Another thing to consider is hosting a ConsentFEST at Middlebury, as this is a common event that occurs at other NESCAC schools (and especially at Amherst, the school that encouraged myself and others to create this position on within Middlebury's SGA).

One final thing to be aware of: I've been working with campus administrators (and especially Sue Ritter and Karen Guttentag) to discuss what it would mean to implement restorative justice within Middlebury's SMDVS process. To that end, I've enclosed my senior thesis to this email, as it discusses restorative justice in this realm. In addition, my thesis outlines the Middlebury SMDVS process, as well as some of the history/evolution of Middlebury's unique response to campus sexual violence. Knowing how the SMDVS process is supposed to work, as well as a few of the events that have prompted its evolution, would be of great use to you as you move forward. Some of the key legislation that impacts our current response to campus rape include Title IX and *Dear Colleague Letter* guidance (especially the 2011 *DCL*).

Best of luck, and please feel free to email me at the address below with any questions or concerns that you may have as you begin this journey. Have a lovely summer!

Best,  
Maddie Orcutt, '16