

Preventing Sexual Violence

Campus Action Committee (PSVAC): Terms of Reference

Vision and mission

Vision

Our vision is to create an inclusive and respectful University of Lethbridge campus that is free from sexual violence in all its forms.

Mission

We are passionate about creating a culture of respect and consent and aim to end all forms of sexual and gendered violence within the university community. We are dedicated to developing comprehensive initiatives that are respectful and inclusive, and we condemn victim blaming. We gather strength and resilience in our community and systems, and in how we collaborate with others. We value the contributions of the greater University system, and recognize that collaboration supports positive and coordinated community engagement. Hence, we maintain close relationships with our many key stakeholders, especially students.

Guiding Principles

- We believe that individuals who affected by sexual and gendered violence have skills and strengths for survival, resistance, transformation and autonomy.
- We affirm and respect that individuals are the experts of their own lives and support self-determination.
- We acknowledge that acts of sexual violence are linked to acts of systematic oppression, including but not limited to sexism, racism, colonialism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia.
- We understand our work is connected to the larger movements to end gender based violence and will work with community partners both on and off campus

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- We recognize that hurt people can hurt others and have the right to heal.
- We believe that while harm caused cannot be erased, accountability, justice and healing are possible through more than one path.
- We believe service users have the right to ask questions and provide feedback.
- We acknowledge that as people, we are always learning, which is how we grow and do better work.

Key Responsibilities

Our key responsibilities to:

- provide awareness of the issue of sexual violence using a community-based and collaborative approach;
- support the ongoing development of key policies and procedure documents in the response to and prevention of sexual violence;
- help facilitate ongoing community consultation of the Sexual Violence Policy and Procedures;
- support the ongoing awareness initiatives and events through active participation and/or support;
- provide ongoing consultation to the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator role.

Structure

Membership

Who: Initially, membership will be by a combination of invitation and expressed interest. Members of the community who express an interest in joining must commit to an empowerment and gender-based standpoint.

Currently, members of this committee include:

- Counsellors (Counselling Services): Heather Rowland (Co-Chair)

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator: Whitney Balog (Co-Chair)
- FNMI Student Advisor
- ULSU
- GSA
- Athletics
- Women's Centre
- Security
- Housing/ORS
- Independent Student Representatives
- CKXU
- Health Centre
- Student Engagement Officer

We will invite our stakeholders to participate at various times throughout the year to review our progress and to provide us with feedback. Potential stakeholder groups may include:

- Student groups
- Risk and safety
- YWCA and SVAC
- Deans and faculty
- Pride
- Women's Centre
- LPIRG

Number of people:

Membership on this working committee will be limited to approximately 12-15 people. This will help ensure that those on the committee will be able to meet the commitment requirements and are passionate about the mission and vision of this group.

Working group commitments:

Members of the committee are expected to attend meetings at least once/month to help create and support the initiatives for that year. The schedule for meetings will be set at a regular

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

time/place so members can schedule accordingly. Between meetings, members will be expected to complete tasks required for project success. These may include:

- collaborating with key stakeholders
- supporting and attending events, workshops, and initiatives

Stake holder commitments:

- To provide feedback and expertise to the committee when required
- To promote, advocate, and participate in the marketing of projects

Governance:

The leadership of this group at this time will fall under the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator with Student Affairs and/or Counselling & Career Services. This position will be responsible for tasks such as:

- Setting meeting times, agendas, etc.
- Chairing the meetings
- Coordinating minutes
- Ensuring working group members complete their required tasks in a timely manner.

The Director of Student Services will ensure the work of the committee is supported by high-level administrators and that projects have institutional approval.

The conduct of members of this committee will be based on a strengths, diversity and empowerment based models thereby promoting respect, inclusiveness and shared decision-making. Members will commit to treating one another with respect and in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the University of Lethbridge.

Any spending decisions will be approved and processed through the Director of Student Services.

Complaints and suggestions can be directed through any member of the committee, though it is encouraged these are brought to the attention of the chair of the committee. Serious ethical concerns may be directed to the Director of Student Services.

Evaluations of all presentations/workshops will be conducted to help elicit campus feedback.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Decision making:

Day to day decision making of the working committee will be made by consensus. “Consensus in decision-making means that all members generally agree that the decision is acceptable. It does not require that everyone be in complete agreement, but only that all be willing to accept or consent to, a decision. Options for Dissenting a Decision are as follows:

Raise concerns – willing to allow a decision to pass but raises one’s concerns with the group. If there are significant reservations about a direction, the decision-making facilitators may choose to modify the proposed decision or idea.

Stand Aside – Willing to let the decision go forward, due to the issue not being relevant, or not being knowledgeable enough about the issue to offer a constructive alternative.

Block- Express concerns with the direction and seek to block the group from continuing it in the current direction. Individuals choosing to block a developing direction should seek to offer an alternative that can best meet the needs of the group and agreed upon purpose.” (Alberta post-secondary mental health and addiction framework, 2015)

Once the working group has made a decision that may require funding, that funding request will be forwarded onto the Director of Student Services.

Decisions on the larger scale will be approved by the Director of Student Services, and when required, by upper administration.

Available resources

In order to meet many of our objectives, the committee will need both time and money from the university. We recommend a yearly working budget of \$1500 (managed by the Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator/Mental Health Grant) allows timeliness and flexibility in small decision making, while larger expenses require approval from the Director of Student Services. If this is not available as a resource, the committee will access various departments for funding availability subject to approval.



SEXUAL VIOLENCE

We have information and consultation support available through community agencies such as the YWCA Lethbridge, Sexual Violence Action Committee, and WomanSpace.

We will also have access to the knowledge/expertise of various stakeholders on campus, including Advancement (Communications) and Security.

CONTACT INFO

ulethbridge.ca/sexual-violence
sexualviolenceinfo@uleth.ca