



Middlebury College Student Government Association
Sexual and Relationship Respect Committee Transition Document
For the 2020-2021 Academic Year

1. Membership & Structure.

Directors: Elissa Asch (Fall & Spring) and Arielle Landau (Spring)

Members: Olivia O'brien, Melanie Chow, Will Blastos, Elise Morris, Leah Salzman, Miwa Johnstone (Jess Garner was also there in the fall).

We had weekly meetings where different projects were assigned and expected to be completed by the next meeting. The directors created an agenda for every meeting before the meeting so it runs smoothly. We started every meeting with personal updates (rose, bud, thorn), then our updates on what we had worked on, and then the rest of the agenda. We also found committee bonding outside of meetings and community building important to our structure. Notes on action items and weekly tasks were added to each agenda to keep track of progress.

2. Important Contacts.

Marti McCaleb - Title IX Director

Emily Wagner - Violence and Prevention Advocacy Specialist

Tara Case and Alison Farr - Parton Health Center

*Be persistent and willing to understand the powers/factors influencing their decisions and needs so you can better advocate for your needs

3. Free-Form Suggestions/Advice.

SRR, though an SGA committee, functions most effectively as an activist group with anti-sexual assault work as its primary focus. Stand by that even when others disagree with you. Here are some of our projects from this year:

Orientation consent programming: Conducted lots of research on other NESAC orientation consent programming and wrote a proposal for Middlebury. Worked with Marti to implement our first programming with Speak About It for February. This consisted of a performance and student led break-out discussions (which we need more clear guidelines and training for in the future). Currently working to plan similar programs for the fall and expand this program to other points in the year.

Plan B at Midd Express: Working with Parton and MiddExpress to try to get Plan B at the discounted price available on campus on the weekends when Parton is closed. Will continue working on this next year if we can't get through to the necessary people during quarantine.

Pad, tampon and condom/dental dam/lube distribution: Passed a bill in senate to expand our pads/tampons/condoms/dental dams/lube initiative from last year to include all freshman and sophomore dorms. Worked with ResLife and Parton (we will see how successfully) to make sure this is initialized for future years and will follow up. We also had some feedback around the type of condom brand, and began discussions (To be continued next year) about changing it. Also, make sure that the RA puts some menstrual products in the sex supplies location, for those who need menstrual products but don't use women's bathrooms.

Complicity project: Reposted the old posters in the Library at the start of this year. Looking through posters that we had previously put up around school as an option. Note that MiddSafe again voiced their complaints about triggers/victim blaming and the project. Were going to expand on this project with a focus on survivors for April, but COVID got in the way.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Pre COVID: Events/ideas we were going to implement before evacuation happened. To make sure we were still involved - we pivoted to the COVID resources initiative below. Things we were going to do: Hunting Ground Screening, Complicity Project people tracing hands and writing how they are complicit, how to challenge their complicity, or how to support survivors and putting it up in a library display. We were also going to help Health and Wellness with Consent Fest. Also the stickers Initiative was a part of this.

Stickers: As part of our SAAM programming, we wanted to make sure there was a safe, but strong sign of support for survivors on Middlebury Campus. Finding there was no culture of safe spaces for survivors, we landed on making stickers. The stickers said “support survivors” with a ribbon and a teal background. We got the SGA senate to approve buying the stickers, and were all set to order a couple of thousand stickers. The hope was to make the stickers as present as the GreenDot stickers on campus. We will order these stickers next year.

COVID resources: Sent out a variety of resources for students in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in lieu of on campus programming. We included domestic violence and sexual assault survivor resources, general resources for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, information for a healthy sex life in quarantine as well as promotional materials for our website where we post answers to anonymous questions. Got some interesting reactions from the meme page, but also lots of positive feedback, interest in our committee, and views on our website.

Current consent workshops: Reached out to captains of all Fall sports teams and have over twenty who said they would sign their team up for a consent workshop. This never materialized as we could not get a consent workshop implemented. We attempted to work with SPECS, however we wanted different kinds of workshops, we tried to get training for student facilitators, or higher professional facilitators, but it didn't happen in any timely manner despite our efforts. As February came up, it became clear if we wanted orientation workshops we better focus on those. We WILL be bringing this up again next year. Research points to dosing as most effective form of sexual assault prevention and we want CURRENT not just incoming students to be trained and engaging in these discussions. Next year also: Check out the situation with Green Dot.

Title IX info and resources: We did research on Title IX policy in Vermont and at Midd and prepared beautiful infographics to post for the student body. We also supported IDEI and Title IX in running a Title IX info workshop in the fall. We never released our infographics and took our focus off of this initiative, due to the fact that unpredictable new regulations are coming out.

Sex in the Dark: Held a very well attended (at least 150) J-term event in the gamut room where we hosted a panel of sexperts and asked for anonymous questions both before and during the event via go-link. The panelists included a queer sex ed specialist, pleasure based sexed specialist, Alison Far from Parton, Marti McCaleb from Title IX, and Emily Wagner from Health and Wellness. Reminder: Go to Mara's

comedy in Burlington because she's freaking hilarious. Committee members took notes at the event so we could later post and publicize answers to people's questions. If done again: get a male panelist and make sure you get email list sign ups in a secure location. The event got great press, it was where we launched our go/links for anonymous questions, and all panelists said they would be interested in doing it again. This was a great chance for students to see parson, health and wellness, and Title IX in a fun and non-threatening light and to get informed.

SRR Outreach (Survey and Email List and Op/Ed): Sent out a survey to students to ask what they wanted from the committee. Used the survey responses to compile an email list for future information regarding events, initiatives, etc. In our COVID resources email and Sex In The Dark Event as well as our planned April programming prior to covid, we explicitly drew from our survey results when planning events or distributing information. ***We believe this is one of the reasons these initiatives were so popular and effective.*** When we sent out our COVID resources, we made sure to provide a link to sign up for our mailing list. We also gathered emails for our mailing list at our events. We will be able to access this email list when planning events next year. We also wrote an op/ed explaining our purpose and goals to the students body and encouraged them to interact with our programming and give us input.

go/links: We created several important go/links this semester, including go/srranswers and go/srrquestions. At go/srranswers, we created a blog where answers to anonymous questions (asked at go/srrquestions) and questions from the Sex in the Dark event. As of the start of May 2020, the website had over 2100 views! We also created go/links for our SAAM resources: go/anonymousquestions, go/abuseresources, go/quarantinesex and go/SAAMresources. We continue to reach out to Mara Iverson (who was on the Sexpert panel), Allison Farr, and Marti McCaleb among other panelists to get the answers to new questions posted in a timely manner. We want to continue to publicize these go links next year.

MiddKid MegaGrant Vibrators: Applied to order 500+ vibrators through the MiddKid MegaGrant program, where \$100,000 was up for grabs to improve student life. The goal was to destigmatize feminist pleasure, reduce the orgasm gap, and increase accessibility to pleasure by reducing the cost of vibrators. Although our application was originally turned down by the SGA finance committee, we were set to present our case at the committee before COVID19 shut down the program. We got a bunch of positive support, and should definitely apply again if the opportunity reappears. We were going to order ZipVibes from Unbound Babes and had obtained wholesale prices from the company.

IN FUTURE: Continue above initiatives, work with sports teams and social houses, get consent and other related programing for current midd students, start to address gender and unhealthy masculinity and hook up culture.

Contact previous directors. There are many very important details that would be best passed in a conversation for how to continue this work. (My email is easch@middlebury.edu, and my phone number is [REDACTED])