

Meiriely Amaral

Director of Sexual and Relationship Affairs

Staff Point-of-Contact: Sue Ritter and Karen Guttentag

Student Point-of Contact: James Callison

Responsibility:

- Organizes initiatives and conversations on how to foster greater sexual and relationship respect on campus.
- Facilitate programming and policy on sexual respect and related issues, including bystander training.
- Ex-officio members of the Sexual Assault Oversight Committee.
- Serve as a liaison between student groups, administrators, and community partners on issues of sexual respect

Tasks:

- Educate the student body what happens when someone reports sexual assault (FAQ)
- J-term dinner, ask for the notes.
- Have a big event similar to this.
- Consentfest - Alice Wang
- Miniworkshop during J-term taught by these guys
- Reach out to Jiya Pandya, Katie O'Neill, Arianna Mills

Dear Future Director of Sexual & Relationship Respect,

I'm happy to be passing on this position to you. It has been around for two years, so you will occupy it for its third year. It was created in the fall of 2014 and the resolution that created it gives great context for how it came to be a position:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/53a4f9d0e4b0b9f4a3e2b6df/t/553aa219e4b0553f49763074/1429905945001/S2015-SB13-Resolution+on+Sexual+Respect.pdf>

I encourage you to read the transition document I have below, which is what my predecessor Maddie Orcutt wrote to me. I found it a really valuable and helpful transition document, along with her thesis that she included in the document, and hope it helps you.

I recommend you reach out to all the people she identifies as key players, specifically Barbara McCall, with whom I met with frequently and was very helpful. I believe A. J. Place is no longer a judicial affairs officer, but Karen Gutentag is still around and also extremely helpful. I started this position with a co-director, Kyra Gray, but toward the end she withdrew from the position for personal reasons and for the last two months it was just me. I found it helpful to have a co-director, it allowed us to pursue different projects or fill in where the other couldn't, but it was also doable when it was just me.

In the beginning of the year Kyra and I met with Karen Gutentag and one of the Sophomore Senators to brainstorm ideas on how to inform the student body about the process that happens after someone reports sexual assault, since oftentimes people are discouraged from reporting something because of lack of information or

misinformation about what happens when they do. I'm not sure what Karen decided to do in the end, but I suggest following up with her because her project is a good idea and she's a good person to be in touch with. We also supported Karin Hanta (Director of Chellis House) in bringing a movie about toxic masculinity to campus and its director for a screening and Q&A session, and Karin is a great person to know for this position as well. Kyra met with Midsafe to increase support and transparency between the organization and the SGA, and Kyra also worked with consent project to get a speaker Jonathan Kalin on campus. Kyra said the talk had a good turnout. We worked with Karina to get free tampons and pads across campus; we met with facilities to discuss how to make it happen and how much it would cost, and the bill eventually got passed. I also helped Barbara run consentfest, a little carnival type thing with booths with games about consent. It was really fun, and I think she would appreciate future help from this position when she does it again next year. I think it could even be a bigger, more widespread thing with the right publicity and resources.

Karina suggested a green dot training for the SGA, and Kyra and I met with Barbara to discuss logistics. We both did the 6 hour green dot training. The idea behind it was that we would have an hour long green dot training with SGA, MCAB, and ICC together. The people in leadership positions in those orgs would get the 6 hour certification and then help Barbara facilitate this one hour joint training. The training's purpose was first to reintroduce everyone to the green dot tenets and then to discuss how to incorporate those tenets into the services the organizations have for the campus community. There was miscommunication about the training, and the only time that worked was during a senate meeting, so the training ended up not having the best turn out. It could be something to consider carrying out next year in the beginning of the year - Barbara already knows about everything and also would support doing it again with better communication and more turnout. Something I noticed during my 6 hour training was that a lot of people kind of just sit through the training to say they did it, and I think it's important to reiterate green dot values as much as we can and in as many different ways as we can. The new president knows about this too, so if you're interested in doing this you can reach out to me or Barbara or Jin! Another thing that didn't fully come to fruition was getting a bill passed to make more bathrooms gender neutral. We were working on it a bit with Queers & Allies but communication fell through at some point. It could be a worthwhile idea to pursue, especially since buildings like Axinn still don't have gender neutral bathrooms. I hope mine and Maddie's letter is helpful, and feel free to contact me if anything!

Best,

Meiriely Amaral '19

Letter from my predecessor:

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