



## **RUSA Bill F20-15**

**Author(s):** Jay Virani, *Sexual Violence Education Chair & SAS Senator-at-Large*

**Sponsor(s):** Sexual Violence Education Committee

### **Bill to Sanction the Creation of a Mandatory Bystander Intervention Training Program for RUSA Allocations Funded Organizations**

*Whereas*, the Rutgers-New Brunswick Office of Student Affairs Compliance & Title IX (“the Title IX Office”) has received 225 reports of Sexual Assault or non-consensual sexual contact, Sexual Harassment, Gender-based Harassment, Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Intimidation, Relationship Violence, Stalking, Retaliation, or a combination of these in the 2019-2020 academic year;<sup>1</sup>

*Whereas*, the number of reports to the Title IX Office has increased every academic year since 2017;<sup>2</sup>

*Whereas*, a study done by McMahon *et al.* on the effectiveness of bystander programs on college campuses provides evidence showing “the use of bystander programs on a college or university setting... [increases] pro-social behaviors to address situations involving sexual violence”;<sup>3</sup>

*Whereas*, research indicates that in the United States, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men will experience sexual violence in their lifetime;<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>[http://compliance.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/2020/07/SA\\_Comp\\_Title\\_IX\\_Stats\\_at\\_a\\_Glance\\_7-2020.pdf](http://compliance.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/2020/07/SA_Comp_Title_IX_Stats_at_a_Glance_7-2020.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[http://compliance.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/2020/07/SA\\_Comp\\_Title\\_IX\\_Stats\\_at\\_a\\_Glance\\_7-2020.pdf](http://compliance.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/2020/07/SA_Comp_Title_IX_Stats_at_a_Glance_7-2020.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10464-015-9740-0#Sec15>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>

**Whereas,** research indicates that in the United States, 49.5% of multiracial women and over 45% of American Indian/Alaskan Native women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime;<sup>5</sup>

**Whereas,** research indicates that in the United States, 44% of lesbian women and 61% of bisexual women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime;<sup>6</sup>

**Whereas,** research indicates that in the United States, 26% of gay men and 37% of bisexual men will experience sexual violence in their lifetime;<sup>7</sup>

**Whereas,** research indicates that in the United States, 47% of transgender people will experience sexual violence in their lifetime;<sup>8</sup>

**Whereas,** research indicates that in the United States, 65% of transgender American Indians, 59% of transgender multiracial people, 58% of transgender Middle Eastern people, and 53% of transgender Black people will experience sexual violence in their lifetime;<sup>9</sup>

**Whereas,** research indicates a strong relationship between sexual assault and poor academic performance – sexual assault survivors suffer academically as a result of their assault;<sup>10</sup>

**Whereas,** the Constitution notes that “the Allocations Board shall have the authority to oversee the usage of all student activities fee money”, giving the Assembly control over student fees through the Allocations Board;<sup>11</sup>

**Be it hereby resolved,** the Sexual Violence Education Committee is charged with working with the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (“VPVA”) to create a Bystander Intervention Training (“BIT”) program for all RUSA Allocations funded organizations;

**Be it hereby resolved,** BIT will be held for clubs funded by the Allocations Board and junior funding bodies, as recognized by the Assembly, once per academic year;

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.hrc.org/resources/sexual-assault-and-the-lgbt-community>

<sup>10</sup> <https://psychology.as.uky.edu/sexual-assault-can-inhibit-student-success>

<sup>11</sup> Article VI Section 1 Paragraph 1 of the RUSA Constitution

***Be it hereby resolved,*** funding may be approved for organizations before BIT but organizations will not receive those funds until at least 2 executive board members of each respective organizations have attended BIT;

***Be it further resolved,*** BIT will utilize a peer-to-peer education system in which members of the student body can volunteer to receive training directed by VPVA to teach BIT;

***Be it further resolved,*** training for students volunteering to teach BIT will take place the spring semester before the semester they will teach BIT;

***Be it further resolved,*** students volunteering to go through training must attend mandatory sessions of length and content at the discretion of VPVA at given dates during the spring semester no later than the first day of the spring recess;

***Be it further resolved,*** students volunteering for training must also attend a short refresher session the week before BIT for the academic year of length and content at the discretion of VPVA;

***Be it further resolved,*** training sessions and refresher sessions will take place on a date agreed upon by both the RUSA Executive Board and VPVA;

***Be it further resolved,*** BIT will be given within the first month of the academic year at a date decided by the RUSA Executive Board and RUSA Allocations Board