

September 26, 2017

Dear Chair Hemmens and Task Force Members:

The ASWSU and alumni members of the WSU Student Conduct Process Task Force are concerned about the lack of input, collaboration, and process leading to the proposed Conduct Code.

Our March 27, 2017 meeting was the first time the full Task Force met in person. It was a productive discussion with progress made on certain aspects of the Conduct Code. However, several key issues--notably the "group conduct" provision--were not addressed. The ASWSU and alumni members identified "group conduct" as a significant and important issue. A subgroup comprised of the ASWSU and alumni Task Force members, and VP Mary Jo Gonzales, was tasked with working on "group conduct." To date, the full subgroup has not met, nor has there been any formal discussion on the consequential issues related to this and other key provisions.

On April 13, 2017, we received a draft of the new proposed Conduct Code, and were told the Task Force would not meet until the next school year. There was no communication over the summer to Task Force members.

On September 5, 2017, we were given a "final" draft at a meeting where there was no option to call in. Requests to receive materials in advance of the meeting were unanswered. This version was considerably different from the April 2017 draft with no corresponding explanation. It was announced that this version would be presented at forums throughout the State starting late September.

On September 10, the ASWSU student representatives provided thoughtful comment and feedback on the latest version. Other than forwarding these suggestions to Task Force members, there has not been any response or plan to address these concerns.

We do not believe the September 5 version (or any draft) represents the recommendations of the Task Force, and object to it being characterized as such.

To have a transparent and collaborative process leading to recommendations of the full Task Force, we request:

- 1) A document showing the changes made to the April 2017 proposed Conduct Code, so we can see the differences between that and the September version (in a redline "track changes" mode clearly identifying what was deleted, added, or edited);
- 2) An explanation of any changes and edits that the Task Force did not agree to at our March 2017 meeting;

- 3) A table with columns showing: (a) the Lyons report recommendations, (b) Survey result recommendations, and(c) where the proposed rules adopt or reject each recommendation;
- 4) At least one In-person meeting of the full Task Force to fully discuss and deliberate the remaining issues, including ones raised by the ASWSU representatives, and “group conduct” subgroup;
- 5) Resolution of issues where there is not agreement, with no one member given more weight than the others;
- 6) A report to go along with the proposed rules, which includes the survey summary, and explanation of the themes;
- 7) Consideration of out-of-town members and student class times when scheduling meetings;
- 8) Documents and drafts be provided to Task Force members at least three days in advance of any meeting, allowing time for review; and
- 9) An “on the record” vote approving the final version before releasing to the WSU community and the public.

We request the above so we can deliver on our charge from the President--to recommend a “fair and equitable student conduct process that supports the education and accountability of students while protecting the safety and rights of the entire WSU community.”

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

Garrett Kalt
ASWSU Vice President

Tyler O’Brien
ASWSU Director of Health and Safety

Don Pelo
WSU Foundation Board of Directors

Mike King
WSU Alumni Association President

Jane Yung
WSU Alumni Association Vice President