

PURDUE STUDENT SENATE

BILL 18-37

“Creation of PSG Ad-Hoc Committee on Sexual Assault and Misconduct”

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Sponsor(s):	Priya Pillai, Sarah Lightner, Justus Thomas, Renae Kramer, Ayelet Bernstein, Andy He
Agenda Date(s):	January 9, 2019
Assigned to:	
Recommendations:	
Action(s):	Brought to Senate Floor
President Pro Tempore:	Justus Thomas
Student Senate President:	Olivia Keller
Student Body President:	Aaron Banks

WHEREAS, The prevalence of sexual assault and sexual misconduct on college campuses, including Purdue is a serious issue that should be looked into further;

WHEREAS, According to the Purdue University Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct issued by the Association of American Universities (of which the most recent data is from Sept. 2015), 21.2 percent of undergraduate students responding to the survey reported being victims of nonconsensual sexual touching since entering Purdue and 13.3 percent reported so during the 2015 school year. For victims of nonconsensual sexual touching 80.3 percent did not report the incident because they felt the incident was not serious enough to report, 9.9 percent felt embarrassed and 21.4 percent did not think anything could be done about it;

WHEREAS, Bystander intervention is an important and effective mechanism to prevent sexual assault and misconduct and the AAU survey also reports that on Purdue's campus 79 percent of individuals who had “witnessed a drunken person heading for a sexual encounter” did nothing, with 23.7 percent saying they weren’t sure what to do. Additionally only 18.1 percent of students at are “very or extremely knowledgeable” about Purdue's definitions and policies for sexual assault and sexual misconduct;

WHEREAS, Studies by the American Counseling Association, and several other independent researchers, concur on the resulting short- and long-term health effects on victims of sexual assault, including depression, PTSD, and substance abuse, among others;

WHEREAS, Currently, Purdue University is facing a lawsuit for potentially violating federal Title IX standards for victims of sexual assault;

Therefore, be it ENACTED,

that Purdue Student Senate establish the Purdue Student Government Committee on Campus Sexual Assault and Misconduct as an Ad-Hoc committee chaired by Jatin Singhal for the current Senate session composed of Purdue Student Government officers and members, as well as other individuals beholden to the interests of the committee. The Purdue Student Government Committee on Campus Sexual Assault and Misconduct will work to increase preventative measures on campus, and to benefit the lives of those affected by sexual assault. The ultimate goal is to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault and sexual misconduct at Purdue University.

Student Body President

Student Senate President