



Student Society
of UBC Vancouver

Submission to the UBC Board of Governors regarding Board Policy 131 and the Prevalence of Sexual Violence at UBC April 11th, 2018

Dear Board of Governors,

This submission is being made on behalf of the Alma Mater Society (AMS) of UBC Vancouver in response to the implementation update for UBC Policy 131, Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct. The AMS has significant concerns regarding the implementation of Policy 131 that have been shared with the responsible Executives and UBC departments. We'd like to recognize that the Executives directly responsible for Policy 131 have welcomed AMS input on the implementation of Policy 131, however, this is not true of all UBC departments.

Included in this submission is data collected in the 2018 AMS Academic Experience Survey which had over 3,000 student participants with a margin of error of less than 2 percent (19 out of 20 times). Insights West was contracted to assist the AMS in all stages of this study – including assistance with research design, execution, data collection, field management, and reporting. To see data referenced in this submission, please use the small numbers^{ex} to find the corresponding figures.

The AMS has substantial concerns that the University is failing to clearly communicate the details of Policy 131; this includes the basic communication of where the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office (SVPRO) is and how to access the office. The following statistics highlight student attitudes... A third of students are not aware of the SVPRO¹, a fifth of students would not feel comfortable accessing services from SVPRO², a fifth of students do not feel UBC does a good job clearly communicating support resources for survivors³, and a third of students do not believe UBC students would know how to appropriately respond if they saw sexual assault or other sexual misconduct being committed⁴.

UBC must create a communication plan in collaboration with community stakeholders to raise greater awareness of campus resources, to consistently educate the wider community about sexual violence, and to provide assistance to campus leaders who are supporting their communities on these issues. The AMS is currently unaware of any plan that exists, keeping in mind we are now one year into the implementation of this policy.

We are also concerned that the current environment has significant issues related to both confidentiality and safety. It is unclear where information related to disclosures is held, especially when a disclosure is given to another UBC unit (i.e. not SVPRO/Investigations). Unsurprisingly, a quarter of students disagree that they would personally feel comfortable reporting an incident of sexual assault or other sexual misconduct to campus officials⁵.

There needs to be far more clarity related to confidentiality and accommodations that can be offered to survivors. Other units at UBC must not hold any records related to disclosures and/or reports related to Policy 131 and ought not usurp the authority of either the SVPRO or Investigations Office. Additionally, the AMS takes issue that students and the UBC community have received little clarity between the differences of reports and disclosures. A distinction that matters greatly, especially for when UBC units are dealing with issues related to Policy 131.

Another issue that is not well defined or communicated, even within Policy 131, is third party reporting (“Anonymous and Third-Party Allegations” in Policy 131). If we hope to have a policy that allows all members of the UBC community to help address issues of sexual violence, we must have more in-depth and widely communicated third party reporting procedures.

We are highly impressed by the individuals hired in both the SVPRO and the Investigations Office at UBC. They have worked with us to identify many of these issues and are currently working with us to address them. We do not, however, believe that this issue is being treated with the seriousness it ought to be by other UBC departments and are incredibly disappointed that the AMS had to identify many of these issues for UBC.



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UBC is failing some of our most vulnerable students when survivors are sent through a perpetual referral system and are told they must disclose multiple times. UBC must implement a system where all employees at UBC are educated on the procedures included in Policy 131 or we will continue to fail at supporting survivors.

We acknowledge that this is the first year of Policy 131 implementation and that any policy will have issues in its first year of implementation. We also cannot wait any longer for the full implementation of this policy. This is an issue that affects every student on our campus with a majority of students in agreement that sexual assault and other sexual misconduct at UBC is a serious issue⁶.

The most shocking data collected in the AMS Academic Experience Survey regards students' own personal experiences of sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct at UBC. One out of twenty students at UBC, over two thousand students, has experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC community⁷. One out of ten students, over five thousand students, has experienced sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community⁷.

Each year we take to fully implement this policy is thousands of students we fail to support. Students who trusted our community as place to learn and to grow. We especially fail the populations who are disproportionately more affected by this issue. Women are twice as likely as men to have experienced sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community⁸. A fifth of sorority women have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC community and a third of sorority women have experienced sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community⁹. A tenth of members of the LGBTQ+ community have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC community and a fifth of members of the LGBTQ+ community have experienced sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community¹⁰. We must also recognize this issue transcends all demographics at UBC.

We are actively working to identify the issues with Policy 131 and what more we can do as a community to address the prevalence of sexual violence at UBC. We would also like to recognize that this is an issue that affects all members of the UBC community, not just students. We will never be able address all issues related to Policy 131 without the resources and support that is needed from all levels at UBC.

We seek the support of the Board of Governors in requesting the responsible Executives and UBC departments to address the countless unresolved issues related to Policy 131 and the prevalence of sexual violence at UBC. We hope that the Board of Governors will recognize the importance of this issue and dedicate the resources and time that is needed to fully review Policy 131 and all procedures related to sexual violence. Finally, we'd like to thank the Board of Governors for their continued dedication to address the issues facing students and the consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

Max Holmes

Vice President Academic and University Affairs
AMS Student Society of UBC Vancouver
vpacademic@ams.ubc.ca



AMS Academic Experience Survey Sexual Violence Data

Prepared by the Vice President Academic and University Affairs

Note: All figures are included in the order that they appear in the submission, please use the small numbers^{ex} to find the corresponding figures.

Comparison Groups: Letters (A-B)

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level

Figure 1: To what extent have each of the following services or programs available at UBC helped your mental health and wellbeing? – Awareness of Service

Base: All Respondents	Undergraduate Students (A)	Graduate Students (B)
Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office	2141 70% B	414 63%

Please Note for Figures 2-10: With respect to respondents' concerns about privacy and triggering, survey participants were given the option to skip this portion of the questionnaire. Respondents were shown the following description:

The next three questions focus on three main issues:

- Student perception of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct on campus
- Student perception of the University's response to sexual assault and other sexual misconduct; and
- Personal experiences of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct by a UBC community member

However, as these topics may be upsetting or triggering to some respondents, please let us know if you would prefer not to answer these questions and the survey will skip to the final section.

Base: All Respondents	Undergraduate Students (A)	Graduate Students (B)
I am comfortable viewing and answering these questions	2317 75%	475 72%
I would prefer not to answer these questions	755 25%	186 28%

Those who did opt to participate in this part of the survey were shown the following description:

For the purpose of these questions the following terms are defined:

- "Sexual Assault" is any form of sexual touching or the threat of sexual touching without the individual's consent
- "Other sexual misconduct" is all other forms of sexual misconduct except sexual assault



Figure 2: If I personally experienced sexual assault or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community, I would feel comfortable accessing support resources from the UBC Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Office - Agreement with statement

Base: All Respondents, excluding prefer not	Undergraduate Students (A)	Graduate Students (B)
NET: Disagree	469 20%	99 21%

Figure 3: UBC does a good job of clearly communicating resources and supports for survivors of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct - Agreement with statement

Base: All Respondents, excluding prefer not	Undergraduate Students (A)	Graduate Students (B)
NET: Disagree	442 19%	95 20%

Figure 4: UBC students would know how to respond appropriately if they saw a sexual assault or other sexual misconduct. - Agreement with statement

Base: All Respondents, excluding prefer not	Undergraduate Students (A)	Graduate Students (B)
NET: Disagree	716 31%	151 32%

Figure 5: If I personally experienced sexual assault or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community, I would feel comfortable reporting the incident to campus officials - Agreement with statement

Base: All Respondents, excluding prefer not	Undergraduate Students (A)	Graduate Students (B)
NET: Disagree	554 24%	126 27%

Figure 6: The prevalence of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct at UBC is a serious issue. - Agreement with statement

Base: All Respondents, excluding prefer not	Undergraduate Students (A)	Graduate Students (B)
NET: Agree	1336 58% B	191 40%



Figure 7: Which of the following statements best describes your own personal experience of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct at UBC?

Base: All Respondents, excluding prefer not	Undergraduate Students (A)	Graduate Students (B)
I have experienced sexual assault and I have experienced other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community	57 2%	6 1%
I have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC community	56 2% B	4 1%
I have experienced other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community	123 5%	24 5%
NET: I have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC Community	113 5%	10 2%
NET: I have experienced sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC Community	236 10%	34 7%

Figure 8: Which of the following statements best describes your own personal experience of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct at UBC?

Base: All Undergraduate Respondents, excluding prefer not	Male Students (A)	Female Students (B)
I have experienced sexual assault and I have experienced other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community	10 1%	44 3% A
I have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC community	23 2%	33 2%
I have experienced other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community	29 3%	93 7% A
NET: I have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC Community	33 3%	77 5%
NET: I have experienced sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC Community	62 6%	170 13% A



Figure 9: Which of the following statements best describes your own personal experience of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct at UBC?
Cross tabulated with those who identified as Female and having participated in Greek Life at UBC

Base: Respondents who identified as Female and having participated in Greek Life, excluding prefer not	UBC Sorority Students
I have experienced sexual assault and I have experienced other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community	7 9%
I have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC community	10 12%
I have experienced other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community	12 15%
NET: I have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC Community	17 21%
NET: I have experienced sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC Community	31 38%

Figure 10: Which of the following statements best describes your own personal experience of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct at UBC?

Base: All Undergraduate Respondents, excluding prefer not	Heterosexual Students (A)	LGBTQ+ Students (B)
I have experienced sexual assault and I have experienced other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community	34 2%	19 7% A
I have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC community	27 1%	11 4%
I have experienced other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC community	101 5%	19 7%
NET: I have experienced sexual assault by a member of the UBC Community	61 3%	30 10% A
NET: I have experienced sexual assault and/or other sexual misconduct by a member of the UBC Community	162 8%	49 17% A



Currently Identified Issues and Action Items Related to Policy 131

1. Confidentiality: Multiple units at UBC have violated sections of Policy 131 relating to confidentiality and disclosures. Academic Units and Student Housing and Hospitality Services (SHHS) have not respected SVPRO as the single point of contact for disclosure support on campus. For example: Within SHHS, if a Residence Advisor receives a disclosure they must tell their Residence Life Manager, even if it is against the wishes of the survivor. **Action Item: Review the procedures for all internal units to correct this error.**
2. Safety: A list of accommodations that can be offered and how quickly they can be offered by SVPRO still does not exist for survivors to be able to access. Additionally, it is not clear within Policy 131 whether SVPRO is able to grant priority placement in Student Housing for survivors of sexual violence and those at risk of domestic abuse at home. **Action Item: Review Policy 131, ensure priority placement is included in this review.**
3. Under-Resourced Office: The SVPRO has been significantly under-resourced over the past year and we are glad to see new budget allocations. Until they are granted a more central location, however, they will continue to be a service with major awareness and accessibility issues. **Action Item: Fund Phase 2 of the Life Building and move SVPRO to the second floor of the life building, explore funding options that would offer 24 hour support.**
4. Academic Units: It is clear that the logistics of implementing Policy 131 have been largely ignored by multiple Academic Units at UBC, however, some faculties are working diligently on this issue - particularly the Faculty of Science. **Action Item: The Provost and President must ensure implementation of Policy 131 by Academic Units at UBC, including, the support of UBC Senate in reviewing any policies that could relate to Sexual Violence.**
5. Usurping Authority of SVPRO/Investigations: As already mentioned, there have been multiple units that have not been following the procedures that direct SVPRO as the single point of contact. However, there are also units at UBC that have policies and contracts that directly contradict Policy 131 and give other employees the ability to decide jurisdiction and applicability of Policy 131. **Action Item: Review the procedures for all internal units to correct this error.**
6. Distinction of Reporting and Disclosures: There is a significant difference between reporting and disclosures as described in Policy 131. This distinction, however, is not widely known throughout UBC nor is the distinction something UBC has educated community members and employees about. **Action Item: Internal (employee) and External (community) communications plans created with stakeholders**
7. Reporting Structure: The AMS is disappointed that reporting structure changes were implemented relating to Investigations and we were not informed of these changes. The current dual reporting structure for SVPRO and Investigations raises issues of responsibility, support, and complaints. **Action Item: Review reporting structure of both the SVPRO and Investigations Office**
8. Third Party Reporting: The current procedures within Policy 131 related to Third Party Reporting are vague and not well thought out. Third Party Reporting is an essential mechanism needed to combat sexual violence within our community. **Action Item: Review Policy 131, ensure Third Party Reporting is included in this review.**
9. Limited Jurisdiction: It is unclear what the "Jurisdiction to Investigate" is interpreted as under Policy 131. It needs to be clear what a "real and substantial connection to UBC" is, especially if reports are being turned away. **Action Item: Review Policy 131, and clearly determine what the Jurisdiction to Investigate is.**