Dear Faculty and Staff,

The *Coalition for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response* (“Coalition”) is the central coordinating committee that advises and assesses work regarding initiatives aimed at addressing sexual misconduct on campus. The Coalition was organized following the release of reports from the University’s Sexual Assault Task Force (2009), and Campus Climate Task Force (2011). The mission of this committee is to ensure that we continue to make progress regarding our prevention and response efforts relative to sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, and that Bucknell is addressing these issues as comprehensively as possible. Since the Coalition was formed in July 2011, Bucknell has made significant strides and is positioned well to make continued improvements.

Below are some highlights of work that has been accomplished to date:

- There has been a gap in the provision of institution-level training and support addressing how to respond to a report of sexual misconduct. This past Fall semester, the Coalition drafted a basic 5-point protocol document entitled “How to help a student who shares that they have been sexually assaulted,” which was distributed via email and campus mail to all faculty/staff and presented at various forums and meetings. Going forward, all faculty/staff will receive additional training and on-going communication regarding sexual misconduct on a cyclical basis.

- Speak UP Bucknell is the sexual misconduct prevention peer education program which was developed and launched in January 2012 by Marie Shaw, Assistant Director, Psychological Services, and Tracy Russell Shaynak, Director, Women’s Resource Center. Speak UP Bucknell was adapted with permission from the University of New Hampshire Prevention Innovations Bringing in the Bystander™ program and emphasizes that everyone has a role to play in ending sexual misconduct. In the Fall of 2012, we replaced the previous mandatory first-year education curriculum with the Speak UP Bucknell program, provided by a team of peer educators to all first-year residence hall floors.

- In October 2012, Bucknell was awarded a $300,000, three-year grant from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus program. In an effort to be transparent about progress moving forward, the project directors (Marie Shaw and Tracy Russell Shaynak) have created a website to communicate with the campus community (my.bucknell.edu/DOJOVWGrant). Some of the highlights from the grant thus far include:
  - Creating and filling the Interpersonal Violence Prevention Coordinator position (which is entirely funded by the grant)
  - Establishing a multidisciplinary Campus-Community Response Team (CCRT) which meets monthly to improve coordination and communication among response services for sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
Scheduling the first law enforcement training (there will be 3 trainings per year), which is focused on trauma survivors and how to interview them effectively.

- Two full-time positions with responsibilities devoted to sexual misconduct were created and filled in March 2013 within the Division of Student Affairs. Barbara Martin has assumed responsibilities as the Title IX Coordinator, and Padma Ravichandran has begun her role as Interpersonal Violence Prevention Coordinator. These positions will help provide institution-level training and support and also enhance education and communication for students, faculty and staff.

  - More specifically, current work conducted by Barbara Martin includes revising the Sexual Misconduct Policy, enhancing the training provided for the Hearing Board for Sexual Misconduct, planning faculty/staff training for Title IX and the Clery Act (e.g., how to recognize and report sexual misconduct, who must report, confidentiality concerns), identifying all Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) and then providing training for all CSAs. She is also partnering with Tracy Russell Shaynak, director of the Women’s Resource Center to enhance the Sexual Misconduct Webpage, and develop an online reporting form.

  - Likewise, Padma Ravichandran has assumed primary leadership across campus for coordinating and facilitating prevention education programs addressing sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. This includes: providing training, coordination, and supervision of the Speak UP Bucknell peer education program; developing and implementing additional prevention education programming and materials; and partnering with various members of the campus community to provide prevention education and training for students, faculty, and staff.

- Increased academic focus on gender and related issues is also essential to address sexual misconduct. A new tenure track faculty position in the Women’s and Gender Studies program has been filled by Nikki Young, who is currently a visiting assistant professor in that program.

- There have been significant discussions to address the overall gender climate on campus, as inequity contributes to maintaining a culture that supports gender-based violence. Some of the work in progress includes creating and reclaiming social spaces in residence halls, creating equitable guidelines and access to housing and social spaces, creating vibrant, viable alternatives to large-scale parties serving alcohol, and taking steps to restructure dining plans so that all students living on campus have a meal plan to increase mixed gender social interactions.

- A vast majority of sexual assaults that occur involve at least one party who has consumed alcohol. The Learning Collaborative on High Risk Drinking has taken leadership in addressing the campus culture regarding alcohol. They have been working on social marketing campaigns, developing an on-line presence (www.bucknell.edu/playsmart), regular communication with students and parents, educational programming, and policy review. The Division of Student Affairs has also designated Associate Dean of Students,
Dan Remley, to assume some responsibilities for alcohol related projects. Additionally, discussions are in progress with the new partnership with Bucknell Student Health and Geisinger and Evangelical hospitals regarding additional prevention education resources relative to alcohol and other drug abuse.

If you have any further questions or comments, or if you are engaged in any work related to sexual assault, dating violence and stalking that has not been highlighted in this message, please contact a member of the Coalition as listed below.

Deborah Abowitz, Professor of Sociology
Kristen Born, Class of 2013
Erin Jablonski, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering
Maisha Kelly, Associate Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator
Chris Magee, Professor of Economics
Robert Midkiff, Associate Provost
Kevin Pons, Assistant Director for Residential Education and Sorority and Fraternity Affairs
Marie Shaw, Assistant Director, Coordinator for Outreach and Consultation Services, Psychological Services, Coalition Chair
Tracy Russell Shaynak, Director, Women's Resource Center/Advocate Program Coordinator
James Shields, Assistant Professor of Comparative Humanities & Asian Thought