**UPUA Elections Questionnaire about Gender Equity**

1. **How do you define sexual violence? How do you think sexual violence is defined by Penn State administrators and/or in institutional discourse? Is this definition inadequate and, if so, how would you leverage your role to change it?**

Sexual Violence constitutes any acts, comments, or mannerisms that either sexually exploit or manipulates someone into a sexual activity without consent. This can consist of physical acts such as sexual assault or contact that is nonconsensual or comments and lewd acts made without permission. I believe sexual violence by Penn State is defined by solely Title IX procedure and the concepts of sexual misconduct such as assault, rape, harassment, and exploitation, but not fully focusing on the multitude of possibilities where sexual comments could be noticed or inappropriate touching. Sexual Violence is perpetrated by those possibly under the influence of alcohol, desire control, or lapse in ethical values. These dangerous causes lead a need to educate Penn State students and administrators to focus more on the importance of preventing sexual violence through education and helping survivors. The definition by Penn State can be inadequate as it does not focus on comments that made people feel uncomfortable or in general ideas of inappropriate touching, leading for my help to try and advocate for better resources and changing of this definition by working with SVAP Week to talk with administrators and students to reach a better definition and ensure the students comfort at Penn State is a priority.

1. **What do you think Penn State (specifically administrators or governing bodies) or our local/state/federal government can do to decrease the incidence of sexual and relationship violence?**

Penn State administrators and local and federal government can decrease the incidences of sexual and relationship violence is requiring further education of the roots as well as examples of these violent actions. Requiring further education other than seen at orientation would allow for students to understand the definitions of these actions and why it needs to be reported. Further education to students would allow for a better understanding of these actions and more importantly, a change from the sexual assault texts that flood inboxes of students to an approach that includes resources within the text as well as educational meanings of what sexual and relationship violence is could decrease the incidents. Better education during freshman year would also allow for more students to be aware of their resources and the importance of this issue using RA’s teach students about the resources and examples of sexual and relationship violence at the beginning of the year to ensure that all can learn about these issues. As well, further advocating by meeting with OSMPR to collaborate and teach students and faculty about the need for change and a better procedure of notifying students as to also including resources within the text message itself to report or support.

1. **Do you plan to advocate for the aforementioned changes? If so, how?**

I plan to advocate for these changes to the best of my ability to talk with New Student Orientation as well as Residence Life to further have resources and a connection to new students about the resources and education needed to understand situations. I also want to speak with administrators as well as OMPR to further make sure resources to students are understood and sent out and speaking with UP-Alerts to make these changes. I also hope to use resources like SVAP during this week to talk with administrators to make changes to the reports and further place more understanding on the report to other student and have further resources. Certain advocacies today focus on student centered responses while more focus on administration and offices of the university is needed to produce better change and reach students either through education or emails. I also want to work together if administration declines to change certain aspects by working with the Coalition or other organizations dedicated to making a change for sexual violence and further drafting support for change to motivate the university to focus on changing this problem.

1. **What steps have you taken to bring anti-sexual-violence and/or social justice work into your education, workplace, and/or an organization that you have been involved with and/or personally become a better advocate?**

Although personally so far through my first year at Penn State I have not had a large amount of time for social justice and anti-sexual violence into my time at Penn State, I want to further increase my involvement and inclusion to become a better advocate. I helped with Mutual Aid Legislation which allowed myself to learn about period poverty as well as the lack of accessible aid for those that may be in need, teaching me that there are others that need essentials, opening my eyes to how I can help those in a different position. I also have dealt with areas of the Sexual Violence and Prevention week with UPUA and am working to increase the awareness by helping to ensure that the event reaches as many students as well as learning myself about the need for outreach and prevention of the topic. I personally have seen sexual violence effect friends close to me, which helped me to learn the importance of this issue to see how it can affect those harmed by it, as well as working to ensure that in UPUA and Penn State as a whole, this problem can be fixed through education about the issue. I also at my time working in high school saw one of my coworkers being harassed, talked to them about the issue, and confronted the perpetrator to ensure that everyone felt safe in an environment that they were at for a majority of the week. I want to increase my actions to stop sexual violence and become a better advocate by working with organizations or those that have been affected to learn about what I can do to help educate others, prevent it from happening, and create support for the survivors of sexual violence.

1. **If elected, what organizations will you maintain relationships with? Will you start or maintain a relationship with anti-sexual violence organizations? If so, how?**

Organizations I would want to maintain a relationship with through UPUA is the OSMPR to start to maintain a relationship by working with them and drafting support to make their office calmer for those coming to report incidents as well as helping to dedicate time to support organizations that help those that have been affected by sexual violence in any manner, as well as working collectively by attending meetings and events and help to cosponsor certain events or programs that help to teach students or focus on the University to make change. Active involvement and communication with organizations like Lotus are necessities for change to be made and I hope to start relationships with the Coalition and other organizations to help advocate for change within students and administrators face on. I want to work together in my role as a representative by doing all in my power to support these organizations as well as work with them to talk with administrators. Through UPUA and Student Life, enact change for Penn State to be there for students facing sexual or relationship violence and help prevent it.