

April 14, 2016

To the Members of the Faculty Senate:

We, the undersigned members of the Stanford faculty, write to express our disappointment that the University has rejected the request, emanating from an overwhelming 90.6% vote by the Stanford student body, to re-administer the Campus Climate Survey using the AAU survey that is utilized by over two dozen of our peer schools including Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, and Brown.

Many of us attended the town hall meeting convened on November 9, 2015 at the Stanford Humanities Center, where we were presented with an analysis we find convincing as to concerns regarding both the methodology and public reporting of the 2015 Sexual Assault Climate Survey. The fact that Levinthal Hall session was a well-attended discussion that continued well after the appointed time clearly indicates that dissatisfaction regarding the survey is not restricted to only students, nor to only a handful of faculty.

We have read carefully the Provost's explanation of his position, and appreciate his attention to this issue, but we still feel that the survey taken last year has done great damage to one of its main aims. Such a survey, undertaken in good faith, should have the effect of signaling Stanford's commitment to addressing this issue in a forceful and unqualified manner so as to, among other things, convince community members of both the seriousness of the issue and the robustness of Stanford's response. In that, the survey has come up short.

Now, to add to that negative impression, the University is denying what we feel is a reasonable request to re-administer the survey using the most common survey used by our peer schools that will allow us to compare Stanford's data to that of other institutions. The University has already acknowledged that it will be repeating the survey in two years. **The students ask only that when it is repeated that the AAU instrument be used in order to ensure that Stanford uses a standard definition of "sexual assault" and that its results will allow for easy comparability with peer schools.** It will also add Stanford's data to the national pool, which helps to increase the breadth of knowledge about this issue nationally, something that as scholars we believe to be an important value for a research institution to uphold.

While we understand that the University has invested resources in the current survey, we do not believe that investment should outweigh the students' desire to participate in the AAU survey. The AAU survey was developed by an independent, third party organization. Many of the participating Ivy League schools had excellent response rates that were comparable to Stanford's, allaying concerns about whether response rates would be sufficient to produce reliable and valid results.

We feel that the choice of the students is sound, and we also support their right to participate in this decision. They are the subjects of the research as well as the individuals

who are at risk for assault. Their voice should be given great weight in this determination. We hope the University will honor their request.

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