VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

RAINN ‘EM IN

For information only.

BACKGROUND

RAINN ‘EM IN is a human-powered horse race. The horses are inflatable and the jockeys are raising awareness and support for survivors of sexual assault. All proceeds from the event go to the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation’s largest anti-sexual violence organization. In 2012, Jennifer Shipe, a rape survivor, founded RAINN ‘EM IN as a creative way to raise funds and awareness for RAINN. The light-hearted competition, inflatable ponies, and team costumes help make a difficult topic more approachable for everyone.

Both Bryce Ellis and Kelly Hostetler attended Ms. Shipe’s Leadership Fireside Chat in February out of their own personal interest in the topic. At the talk, Jen discussed how and why she founded RAINN ‘EM IN, and what the process has taught her about leadership. It was an inspiring conversation that left both Bryce and Kelly motivated and capable of joining this worthy fight to end sexual violence. They each saw the need for this conversation on campus, and saw RAINN ‘EM IN as the means to make this conversation approachable for all students, whether they’ve been personally affected by sexual assault or not. They felt if the topic was made more approachable, students could catalyze a culture change on the UW campus and prevent many acts of sexual assault before they happen.

Together, Bryce and Kelly engaged three different student groups, the IFC (Interfraternity Council), the Panhellenic Association, and the CEP (Community, Environment, and Planning) undergraduate program, to participate in the event. Thus, the UW became the first university in the nation to partner with RAINN ‘EM IN in order to raise awareness and support for survivors of assault.

On May 16, 16 teams competed for the Triple Crown. The relay race-style bouncing took place at Emerald Downs track between actual horse races in front of thousands of people. In the end, the UW’s team won two out of the three crowns: the Race Crown and the Fundraising Crown (all but the People’s Choice Crown). Together, the three student groups raised $2,000 dollars for the RAINN organization. The entire event raised $25,000, which is enough money to staff over 10,000 hours of RAINN’s 24-hour hotline.
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These inflatable ponies sparked conversations throughout the UW’s campus involving sexual violence, the nature of consent, and how we as a community can support victims. This event provided a safe space for survivors to find support and share their stories. RAINN ‘EM IN also spurred a more general dialogue surrounding the sheer significance of this issue on the UW’s general campus and throughout the rest of the world. Engaging students in dialogue around sexual assault is a powerful tool for change. This change and the desire for more of it has already taken root at the UW, and students are now better poised to support the university as an emerging national leader in sexual assault awareness and prevention.

Bryce, Kelly, and the rest of the students involved are hoping to continue these conversations going forward. For the 2015-2016 academic year, they plan to implement the following:

- 2015 Fall Quarter: Host a RAINN ‘EM IN UW race during halftime at a Husky football game
- 2016 Winter Quarter: Form a steering committee of UW student leaders
- April 2016: Expand on the second annual RAINN Day in Red Square
- May 2016: RAINN ‘EM IN Race (goal of 30+ UW students from 6+ student groups)

Attachments
Photos from RAINN ‘EM IN Race at Emerald Downs
Presenters’ Biographical Information
Victory! The Race Crown went to UW’s Interfraternity Council (IFC) team. However, the UW also had teams at RAINN ‘EM IN from the Panhellenic Association and the Community, Environment, and Planning (CEP) major.
Bryce Ellis is an undergraduate at the University of Washington majoring in Law, Societies, and Justice, and Communication. He has an academic focus on the many different aspects of the issue of mass incarceration facing the United States today. Bryce is a proud member of Theta Chi fraternity and has served as both his chapter's re-founding vice president and president. As a transfer student from Seattle Central College, Bryce came to the University of Washington skeptical of fraternities and not expecting to join one. Bryce attributes his skepticism to the many negative stereotypes commonly associated with fraternities. Since joining a fraternity however, Bryce has embraced these stereotypes as a call to action and a chance to make a positive difference while also enjoying the many benefits of Greek life. In his current role as the University of Washington Interfraternity Council Vice President of Risk Management, Bryce has dedicated his efforts to addressing sexual assault awareness and getting men involved in advocacy work; through efforts like the Dawgs Take Action pledge against sexual violence, working closely with SARVA on SARVA events, and building a relationship between the UW and RAINN/RAINN 'Em In. Bryce has seen a positive difference on these issues and is convinced that as communities around the UW continue to be proactive, this change will only continue.

Kelly Hostetler holds a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Washington. While there, she specialized in urban design and sustainability, with a focus in collaborative education. Now, Kelly remains at the UW in the College of Built Environments as the Program Manager for the Community, Environment, and Planning (CEP) undergraduate major. She enjoys CEP's passionate students and innovative education model - one that emphasizes student governance and holistic professional development. Before returning to the Pacific Northwest, Kelly received her undergraduate degree from Columbia University in both Political and Environmental Science while captaining the Women's Varsity soccer team.