

22 November 2014

Presidents and Chancellors
Association of American Universities,
Consortium on Financing Higher Education

Dear Presidents and Chancellors:

This is a follow-up, now from 32 expert researchers, to our November 17 letter about the AAU's planned sexual assault survey.

Yesterday, the AAU released a revised advisory board for the Sexual Assault and Campus Climate Survey. The institutions represented (by number of members appointed to the board) are: University of Virginia (4), Yale (3), Brown (3), University of North Carolina (2), Cornell (1), Columbia (1), Harvard (1), MIT (1), University of Wisconsin (1) and COFHE (1).

We were shocked to see that the University of Virginia, under fire for mishandling sexual assault, has the largest number of members of the design team compared to any other school. We were concerned to see the imbalance in geographical and institutional representation. We were particularly dismayed to see that so few scientists with expertise in measuring sexual violence were included on the design team.

We continue to object to a secret survey that researchers cannot scrutinize. Being an AAU team player on this matter means subsidizing a survey that has been criticized as lacking in appropriate scientific expertise and flawed by the short time-frame and lack of transparency mandated by the contract.

We urge you to decline to participate until the AAU has addressed these problems. We invite you to interact with any of us regarding the issues we have raised in this or our previous letter.

Sincerely,

Antonia Abbey, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Wayne State University
Carolyn Allard, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, University of California, San Diego
Thema Bryant-Davis, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Pepperdine University
Bethany Brand, Ph.D., Professor, Psychology Department, Towson University
Rebecca Campbell, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Michigan State University
Kelly Cue Davis, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, University of Washington
Amber N. Douglas, PhD. Associate Professor of Psychology, Mount Holyoke College
William Flack, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Bucknell University
Julian D. Ford, Ph.D., A.B.P.P., Professor of Psychiatry, University of Connecticut Health Center
Lisa Frey, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Oklahoma
Jennifer J. Freyd, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of Oregon
William H. George, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of Washington
Sherry Hamby, Ph.D., Research Professor, University of the South and Director, Appalachian Center for Resilience Research
Angela J. Jacques-Tiura, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Wayne State University
Bridget Klest, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Regina
Mary P. Koss, Ph.D., Regents' Professor or Public Health, University of Arizona

Debra Kaysen, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Depression Therapy Research Endowed Professor, University of Washington

Dean G. Kilpatrick, Ph.D., Distinguished University Professor of Clinical Psychology, Director, National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center, Vice-Chair for Research & Research Administration, Co-Director, Charleston Consortium Clinical Psychology Internship Program, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina

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