Appendix A: Focus Group Guide

Focus Group Guide – Campus Climate Discussion Guide

Facilitators: _____________________ & _____________________

Name of group interviewed: ___________  No. of participants: ___  Date: ________

Time discussion started: ________  Time ended: _______

I.  **Introduction** (warm up)

Facilitator: “First, we are going to start with some general questions about your experiences at RU as a student and your sense of community.”

   a) How connected do you feel to the campus community at RU?
   b) Do you take pride in being a student at RU?
   c) How do you think your peers/classmates feel about RU?
   d) What is the best part of being a student at RU?
      i.  What is the worst part of being a student at RU?

II.  **iSPEAK**

Facilitator: “Now we are going to ask a few questions about the iSPEAK which was an online survey emailed out in October of 2014.”

   a) Do you see or hear about the iSPEAK campaign? What did you see or hear? Emails? Social media? Did you receive a bracelet? What did you think about it?
   b) What did you make of the message?
   c) How could this type of campaign be improved in the future? Or for other campuses?

III.  **Sensitive Topics/Confidentiality Warning**

Facilitator: “Before moving into the following topics of discussion, it is important to remember that the issues to be covered, including sexual assault, are sensitive topics. Due to the nature of the current research study, we ask that all participants please refrain from personal disclosure, during the focus group. Like we said before, please talk about “my friend”, “someone I know”, “a student I heard about” or something along those lines. This is to maintain everyone’s confidentiality.”
IV. Sexual Assault Questions - General

Facilitator: “You may have noticed that campus sexual assault has been in the news quite a bit this last year. There are a number of student protests that have taken place, with beliefs that their universities did not respond adequately to the issue. There has also been a call by the Obama administration for schools to do more on these issues. What do you think about all the new attention that has been given to this issue? Any general thoughts?”

a) How do you define the term “sexual assault”?
b) Where have you heard or learned about sexual assault? (Come up with a list of places to ask about−high school, college, orientation, TV, classes, student orgs, etc.?)
c) What do you think leads to sexual assault, in society at large?
d) In general, what kinds of campus sexual assault policies and/or practices do you think support survivors of sexual violence?
   i. What is not supportive or helpful for survivors?

V. Sexual Assault Questions – on RU campus

Facilitator: “Now we will focus our conversation on sexual assault at RU. This is a very serious issue. In fact, the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault asked Rutgers to study sexual assault on campus. Keeping that in mind...

a) Do you think sexual assault is a problem here at RU?
   i. What do you think leads to these problems at RU?
   ii. At RU, does sexual assault happen a lot?
   iii. Do you think these issues are more or less of an issue than in other universities? Why or why not?
b) Do you personally know a friend or fellow student who was sexually assaulted at RU?
   i. If yes, how were they treated on campus?
      a. Did they get the services they wanted or needed? Why or why not?
c) Do you personally know a friend or peer who sexually assaulted another student at RU?
   i. If yes, what happened to your friend/peer?
d) How do you think RU handles and responds to sexual violence against students?
   i. Have any of you heard anything about any students’ experiences who has been sexually assaulted on campus?
      a. If yes, what kind of things did you hear about how it was handled?
e) What kinds of information have you received about sexual violence since coming to RU?
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i. Where did this information come from?
ii. What messages did they receive?
iii. Did you think it was useful/beneficial? Why or why not?
f) Have you ever heard faculty, staff, or administration talk about or address sexual assault?
   i. What did they say?
   ii. What did you think of what they said?
g) If you had a friend who was sexually assaulted, would you know where to go to get assistance on campus?
   i. How would you get help for your friend?
h) Are you aware of any policies on campus related to sexual assault? What do you know about them?
i) Are you aware of any resources that RU offers to address the issue of sexual assault?
   i. If yes, which resources are you aware of?
      a. To your knowledge, what are the specific functions of these resources?
      b. Are these resources appropriate for addressing sexual assault at RU?

VI. Bystander Intervention Questions

Facilitator: "Our next topic is bystander intervention. Many schools are now focused on bystander intervention as one way to address sexual violence. Bystander intervention occurs when someone steps in to interrupt sexual violence from happening. This can be before, during, or after sexual assault.

a) Have you ever seen situations related to sexual violence on campus where students could step in?
   i. What happened?
b) Have you ever stepped in?
   i. What happened?
   ii. Did it help the situation?
   iii. How did it feel to you?
c) Do you think your friends are supportive of you stepping in?
d) Do you think your friends would step in? Why or why not?
e) What are some barriers to stepping in?
f) Is there anything that the university could do to encourage or help bystanders step in?

VII. Sexual Assault Prevention Questions

Facilitator: "Switching gears... bystander intervention is one type of prevention. What else do you think can be done to address campus sexual assault?

a) In your opinion, what are some ways to prevent sexual assault (in general)?
i. Specific prevention methods for universities?

b) In regards to sexual assault, are you aware of any preventative measures that RU employs?

i. If so, how effective or ineffective are these methods?
   a. If effective, why are these approaches working?
   b. If ineffective, why aren’t these approaches working?

1. What can be done to improve these approaches?

Facilitator: “For our final question, we’d like you to think broadly about the RU effort to address sexual assault...

Final question: What else can Rutgers do to better address the issue of campus sexual assault?

FOR STUDENT GROUPS

1. What kinds of things have you heard about sexual violence on your team/in your group/in your organization?
2. Are there ever discussions about sexual violence? Has your coach/captain/president/etc. ever discussed the issue or given out any information?
3. Do you think people on your team/organization/etc. would step in if they heard someone was assaulted? What about if people saw sexual harassment on campus?
4. How could members of your group help prevent sexual violence?