

May 20, 2014

Dear President Kroger,

We, the undersigned, are a group of alumni and students writing to discuss Reed's unwillingness to disclose the criteria for campus exclusion and the imposition of sanctions for sexual assault and harassment. We would like to know why those who are charged with offenses that are alcohol-related (and non-violent in nature) are disciplined in a more aggressive manner than those who are found guilty of sexual assault and/or rape at Reed.

It is our understanding that in the 2011-2012 school term, a rape survivor went through all of the proper channels to prosecute her rapist within the school's guidelines. This year, even after her attacker was ruled guilty, the survivor was forced to see her rapist on campus during Renn Fayre. It is worth noting, as well, that the rapist attacked not only this survivor, but also another student, making them a serial campus assailant. This year, another student was given three Alcohol and Other Drug violations (AODs) for underage drinking and was excluded from Renn Fayre at your discretion. The decision of the J-Board to allow the student to attend the event was overridden. The juxtaposition of these two cases seems to us to be manifestly unjust: students whose only misstep was being too young to drink are barred from one of the most cherished Reed College events, while a survivor who had the courage to come forward was forced to see her rapist on campus during Renn Fayre. These two particular instances seem to demonstrate the dissonance of our campus governance under your leadership - punishment for minor infractions such as underage drinking warrants campus exclusion, but sexual assault does not.

Until your most recent agreement to meet with the survivor, her requests for dialogue went unanswered. The fact that the survivor made four separate requests and a meeting has only just been arranged is both inappropriate and disrespectful. The refusal to engage in dialogue with this survivor shows blatant disregard for her rights as a sexual assault survivor, and as a Reed student. This refusal to meet with this student not only sets a dangerous precedent of obfuscation of campus policies, but also sends a message to other survivors at Reed that their physical and emotional safety is not a matter of importance to the college.

The administration's failure to adequately address sexual assault concerns could leave Reed open to liability under Title IX. One of the tenets of the federal law is that "schools must take immediate steps to address any sex discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual violence happening on campus to prevent it from affecting students further. If a school knows or reasonably should know about discrimination, harassment, or violence that is creating a 'hostile environment' for any student, it must act to eliminate it, remedy the harm caused, and prevent its recurrence."¹ By allowing rapists to continue to be on campus, other students and survivors on campus are put at risk. At a time when the handling of sexual assaults on college campuses is receiving national attention, Reed must strive to be a leader in implementing policy reform and ensuring a safe environment for its students -- not lag behind.

¹"Title IX: The Basics." Know Your IX. May 18 2014. <http://knowyourix.org/title-ix/title-ix-the-basics/>.

Our first step toward reform is simply a request for openness, honesty, and consistency surrounding exclusion and penalty policy. Because the role of President of the college includes the responsibility of reviewing the findings of facts and recommended sanctions put forth by the Sexual Misconduct Board, we would like to see the acting President respond to survivors in a timely and appropriate manner, within 72 hours. If they are unable to, then someone appropriate should be designated who can do this in their absence. If the President is unwilling or unable to designate a proxy who is properly trained in the handling of sexual misconduct with sensitivity, compassion, and the appropriate amount of retribution for perpetrators, perhaps it would be useful to begin the process of forming a committee of persons who are trained and certified on the proper ways to treat survivors and process their cases. This committee would consist of the current Assistant Dean of Sexual Assault Prevention & Response (ADSAPR) and selected Reed Student Advocates, who would offer consultation on how to improve communication with survivors of sexual assault.

We propose that in instances where the President wishes to override the decisions of the Sexual Misconduct Board, or otherwise interfere with the proceedings of sexual assault cases at Reed, they would be obligated to consult with this committee, and to come to a written agreement and enactment of the decision with at least three of the individuals of the committee within sixty days of the survivor's first contact with the administration. Because sexual assault is a sensitive issue that requires the sort of training not all members of Appeals Board possess, we recommend that this committee handles cases of rape and sexual assault in lieu of the board, or that any survivor has the option to choose whichever method works best for them.

Our second request is that the college work to enforce survivors' rights to equal educational outcomes. Survivors who stay at Reed are forced to interact with their attackers and thereby risk possible retraumatization. When attackers are allowed full access to the spaces and traditions at the heart of Reed, such as Renn Fayre and Commencement, survivors must often make the decision to exclude themselves to prioritize their own mental and physical safety. In this forced choice, they are also excluded from many of the privileges enjoyed by other students, including a supportive academic community, safe social environments, and the opportunity to take joy in the celebration of their own academic triumphs.

An integral part of lifting this burden from survivors is imposing appropriate sanctions on their attackers. The sanctions the college has imposed upon rapists and perpetrators of sexual assault have been inconsistent and disproportionate to the serious crimes survivors have courageously brought forward to the attention of the administration at great personal cost. Many student survivors rely on no-contact orders issued by Community Safety, but survivors find themselves forced to frequently share common campus spaces with their assailant due to the difficulty of enforcement, given that the college has one library, one gym, one cafeteria, etc. This creates a potentially hostile environment for these survivors, eroding the equity of their educational opportunity.

We feel that decisions made regarding campus sexual violence are far too lenient not only from the perspective of survivors' rights, but also in leaving the college open to liability for failing to prevent recurrences of sexual violence from repeat offenders on campus. Community service hours, alcohol counseling, sexual assault prevention training, verbal reprimands, disciplinary probation, curfews, off-campus housing, termination of college employment or

positions of authority, and other relatively minor sanctions are not appropriate. We cannot use trial-and-error to safeguard our campus community. We must use methods proven to stop rape: the expulsion of known rapists. We want the Reed College administration to commit to sanctions no lighter than the only measure which can truly prevent tragic repeat offenses: stopping rape begins with no longer tolerating the presence of serial campus assailants at Reed College. Acts of sexual violence have no place on a campus that prides itself on the honorable conduct of its community members.

According to a study performed by clinical psychologists David Lisak and Paul M. Miller, most assailants rape multiple times, repeating their pattern of violence whether or not they are documented or reported.² Additionally, “more than 90% of rapes in any community are committed by serial rapists.”³ If we want to maintain a safe campus community, we cannot simply slap the wrists of serial assailants and hope for the best. We reiterate that the bodies of our students are not learning opportunities for serial student assailants to correct their predatory behavior.

According to Brett Sokolow of the National Center on Higher Education Risk Management, “There’s no evidence to suggest that a college campus can rehabilitate a sex offender, so why are we even taking that chance?”⁴ We ask, why leave the Reed community open to that liability? And why leave survivors waiting with unanswered questions?

If the administration fails to adequately respond to this letter within the week, we will assume that the college is not interested in negotiation or discussion around fighting to end sexual assault and rape at Reed. Because you have the final word in all matters regarding the Reed community, it is your obligation to speak with those who are affected by your decisions if you wish to protect the safety of your students. As President, it is your responsibility to help protect our community. Thank you for your time, and we hope to hear from you by close of business on Friday.

Sincerely,

The Alumni Sexual Assault Task Force

Taylor Cross-Whiter ‘13

Courtney Fraser ‘12

Antonia Heffelfinger ‘12

Zoe Kipping ‘11

Alanna Lynn ‘13

Elizabeth Martin ‘12

Arion Russell ‘13

² Lisak, David and Paul M. Miller. “Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists.” 2002. <http://www.davidlisak.com/wp-content/uploads/pdf/RepeatRapeinUndetectedRapists.pdf> (finding that “[a] majority of these undetected rapists were repeat rapists, and a majority also committed other acts of interpersonal violence. The repeat rapists averaged 5.8 rapes each. The 120 rapists were responsible for 1,225 separate acts of interpersonal violence...”).

³ Lisak, David. “Some good news, rape is preventable.” August 5 2013. <http://s.cleveland.com/siqcotX>.

⁴ Lombardi, Kristen. “A lack of consequences for sexual assault.” February 24 2010. <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2010/02/24/4360/lack-consequences-sexual-assault>.

& A Group of Concerned Alumni and Students (please see attached pages for complete list)

Emily Robinson '12
Alison Kafka '14
Lara Evensen '11
Serena Ahmed '14
Madeline Kinkel '14
Elizabeth Grace '15
Amanda Carnegie '15
Meghan Comer '15
Adrian Dannis '14
Corinne Bachaud '14
Heather Chan '14
Emily Goldman '13
Marilyn Carlin '15
Lauren Cary '13
Zach Waddell '16
G Luhman '15
Alex Fleming '10
Phil Norfleet '13
Walker Holden '14
Jaine Powers '09
David Nielsen '11
Shaheen Adibi '12
Rachel Osborn '14
Isabel Cylinder '12
Eric Talbot '12
Melissa Lewis '13
Jen Byers '14
Dahlia Grossman-Heinze '10
Ty Unterseher '17
Erica Meadow '14
Rodney Mastick '13
Kathleen Conahan '12
Ami Cooper '16
Zoe Koontz '15
Willamae Boling '15
Matt Hagen '11
Justina Thoreson '11
Florence Williams '12
Abby Dufresne '14
Joe Wasserman '09

Paul Clay '10
Rose Lewis '13
Moriah Toobin '11
Arianna Rebolini '12
Gillian Woodruff '08
Diana Nicolas '09
Harry Traulsen '11
Emily Corso '10
Natasha Wright '10
Rachel Baden '13
Sam Smith '13
Florence Williams '12
Gregory Barello '13
Moriah Gottman '13
Lindsay Myers '12
Rebecca Roberts '12
Sam Shemitz '11
Erica Meadow '14
Christine Short '12
Stephanie Hoang '11
Petergaye Carby Angus '11
Hallie Noble '11
Matteson Knox '09
Erin Moore '12
Mace Spiegel '10
Dave Toffey '11
Robertson Beasley '09
Mica Peacock '13
Karen Silbert '13
Vasiliki Ioannou '17
Alyssa Gottschlich '10
Natasha Barnes '12
Mark Hintz '12
Alden Jones '13
Joel Batterman '10
Char Booth '01
Nikki Georgopoulos '12
Nora Jones '12
Alison Kopit '11
Nicole Horbinski '13
Casey Revkin-Mauger '99
Sasha Shyduroff '08
Jessica Gerhardt '11

Lauren Moore '11
Kristina Wilson '03
Kenneth Lewis '10
Rhiana D. Meade, '12
Jonathan Owicki '07
Danielle Ciccone '13
Jesse Graff '08
Karlyne Ejercito '11
Lauren Banister '10
Kristin Sullivan, '15
Ulric Legouest, '07
Matthew Kumar '10
Miriam Posner '01
Claire Ramey '13
Ethan Edwards '12
Salish Davis '15
Dawniris Eversz '12
Katherine Campbell '04
Roger Hobbs '11
Edna Goodman '06
Michael DeLong '12
Sharon Heichman '13
Blake Goud '03
En-Szu Hu Van-Wright '12
Alda Allina Migoni (transfer) '09
Elizabeth Dinkova '13
Jeremy Amendola (transfer) '08
Jinyoung Park '11
Remy Barnett '13
Miriam Rigby '02
Ashley Schneider '11
Anna Fimmel '14
Lori Rodriguez '13
Alise (Scheeler) Sanchez '08
Ben Sanchez '08
D'nae Henderson '12
Eleanor Kinney '14
MacKenzie Warren '11
Isabel Manley '11
Jesse Hallett '06
Leah Early '10
Michael Crane '11
Thuy Van '10

Justin Luchow '11
Natalie Sheehan '10
Elizabeth Heintges '13
Stephen Stack '14
Shabab Ahmed Mirza '15
Sara Natale '12
Natalie Troxel '07 (Former J-Board Member)
Hugh Owens '12
Alexandra Larson '16
Austin Campbell '11
Laurel Oldach '11
Shannon Smith '14
Ann-Derrick Gaillot '12
Kaatje Leilani Jones '13
Manuel Arturo Abreu Rodriguez '14
Jesse Walla '11
Amanda Pichel '12
Lauren Bloomquist '12
Laura Krause '13
Sita Goetschius '15
Justin Holguin '07
Amelia Goldsmith '12
Jeremy Harper '08
Audrie Davidson '11
Margaret Grove Nelson '09
Taylr Koebel '10
Elena Fernandez-Collins '12
Ruth Linehan '12
Rukayat Taiwo '12
Ellen McManis '12
Katherine Judson '09
Amelia Harati '11
J. Christian '06
Rabbi Emily Aviva Kapor '07
Timothy Brandow '15
Anika Ledlow '15
Rowan Hildebrand-Chupp '13
Sarah Balog '10
Kailyn McCord '09
Alexander Scola '13
Colton MacTaggart (transfer) '12
Sarah Carlisle '13
Erin Jacot '13

Francis Dieterle '12
Ellen Levkoy '13
Kelly Hoffer '12
Helen Spencer-Wallace '15
Emily Craven '04
Emily Riley (transfer) '03
Nicolain Smirnow '15
James Clark '14
Lena Kaplun (transfer) '10
Elizabeth Ogden '12
Kristina Marie Fullerton '11
Devin Judge-Lord '09
Jessica Youngberg '06
Cora Payne '12
Zoe Bursztajn-illingworth '13
Kate McCully '13
Carolyn Duncan '02
Nadir Hajouji '13
Frances Kershaw '10