Plans for the Presentation

• Brief overview of the origins and background on the study
• Summary of the report findings and recommendations
• Response to the report and next steps following the report’s release
• Information on how MIT has responded to the report
• Discussion with you all about the report and about how you envision your institution implementing the report’s recommendations
Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Chair: **Joan Bennett**¹, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

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Study Statement of Task

The Committee will undertake a study of the influence of sexual harassment in academia on the career advancement of women in the scientific, technical, and medical workforce, which will include the following:

- Review of the research on the extent to which women in the fields of science, engineering, and medicine are victimized by sexual harassment on college and university campuses, in research labs and field sites, at hospitals/medical centers, and in other academic environments;

- Examination of existing information on the extent to which sexual harassment in academia negatively impacts the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women pursuing scientific, engineering, technical, and medical careers, with comparative evidence drawn from other sectors such as the military, government, and the private sector;

- Identification and analysis of policies, strategies, and practices that have been the most successful in preventing and addressing sexual harassment in these settings.
Study Committee Members

Co-Chair: **Paula Johnson**\(^1\), Wellesley College
Co-Chair: **Sheila Widnall**\(^2\), Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Alice M. Agogino\(^2\)  Amy Dodrill  Anna Kirkland
Nicholas Arnold  Liza H. Gold  Ed Lazowska\(^2\)
Gilda A. Barabino  Melvin Greer  Vicki J. Magley
Lisa García Bedolla  Linda C. Gundersen  Roberta Marinelli
Kathryn Clancy  Elizabeth Hillman  Constance A. Morella
Lilia Cortina  Timothy R.B. Johnson\(^1\)  John B. Pryor

\(^1\) NAM Member  \(^2\) NAE Member
Key findings

• There is extensive sexual harassment
• Gender harassment is the most common form of sexual harassment
• Sexual harassment undermines research integrity, reduces talent pool, and harms targets and bystanders
• Legal compliance is necessary but not sufficient to reduce harassment
• Changing climate and culture can prevent and effectively address sexual harassment
SEXUAL COERCION

using professional threats or rewards to get sexual favors

UNWANTED SEXUAL ATTENTION

sexual assault

rape

unwanted groping or stroking

PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS

GENDER HARASSMENT

relentless pressure for sex or dates

nude images posted at work

unwanted sexual discussions

sexually humiliating acts

sexual insults, gender slurs, and vulgar name calling e.g. “whore,” “pu**y,” “slut,” “bitch”

offensive sexual teasing or remarks about bodies

sexist insults e.g. women don’t belong in science

sabotage of women’s equipment

obscene gestures
Finding: Prevalence of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is common in academic science, engineering, and medicine.

• Best available analysis to date shows that 50 percent of women faculty and staff in academia experience sexual harassment.

• Student surveys at a couple universities shows that between 20-50 percent of students in science, engineering, and medicine experience sexual harassment from faculty or staff.
Finding: Sexual harassment is common

Example – Percent of women faculty/staff harassed by coworkers or supervisors at a large public university:

- Only Gender Harassment: 34%
- Gender Harassment + Unwanted Sexual Attention: 37%
- Only Unwanted Sexual Attention: 20%
- All three types: 4%
- Not Harassed: 5%
Finding: Sexual harassment is common (cont.)
Findings: Race, Sexuality, and Gender Identity

Women of color experience more harassment (sexual, racial/ethnic, or combination of the two) than white women, white men, and men of color do. Women of color often experience sexual harassment that includes racial harassment.

Sexual- and gender-minority people experience more sexual harassment than heterosexual women do.
Findings: Impact on Targets and Bystanders

Sexual harassment undermines women’s professional and educational attainment and mental and physical health.

Sexual harassment has adverse effects that affect not only the targets of harassment but also bystanders, co-workers, workgroups, and entire organizations.
Findings: Legal System

Judicial interpretation of Title IX and Title VII has incentivized organizations to create policies, procedures, and training on sexual harassment that focus on symbolic compliance with current law and avoiding liability, and not on preventing sexual harassment.

Title IX, Title VII, and case law reflect the inaccurate assumption that a target of sexual harassment will promptly report the harassment without worrying about retaliation.
Findings: Predictors of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is most likely to take place in environments that are:

• Male-dominated in number, leaders, and culture

• Organizational tolerance of sexual harassment
  o Reporting is perceived as risky
  o Reports not taken seriously
  o Offenders escape sanction

Organizational climate is, by far, the greatest predictor of the occurrence of sexual harassment.
INTEVENTIONS FOR PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Create Diverse, Inclusive, and Respectful Environments

Hiring and Promotion: Take explicit steps to achieve greater gender and racial equity in hiring and promotion, and improve the representation of women at every level.
- The University of Michigan Committee on Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence (CSITE) offers Faculty Recruitment Workshops for faculty members with an important role in faculty recruitment.
- Civility-Promotion: Combine anti-harassment efforts with programs to promote civility.
  - The 2016 EEOC Task Force on the Study of Harassment in the Workplace recommends workplace training focused on respect and civility.
  - The Civility, Respect, and Engagement at Work (CREW) program is an intensive 5-month intervention geared to reduce employee interpersonal awareness and communication skills.

Interrupt and Intervene in Inappropriate Behavior: Utilize training approaches that develop skills among participants to interrupt and intervene when inappropriate behavior occurs.
- bystander intervention training such as Confronting Prejudiced Responses (CPR) and Behavior Modeling Training (BMT) designed to train participants to recognize and report problematic behavior.

Training that Aims to Change Behavior: Training should focus on changing behavior, not on changing belief.
- Programs should clearly communicate behavioral expectations and specify consequences for failing to meet those expectations. Training programs should not be based on the avoidance of legal liability.

Improve Transparency and Accountability

Clear Policies: Develop and share clear, accessible, and consistent policies on sexual harassment and standards of behavior. Make clear that people will be held accountable for violating the policies.
- Include a range of clear disciplinary actions that correspond with the severity of the harassment.
- Engage the academic community in policy and practice reviews. Some institutions have created student advisory boards and forums for students to meet with the Title IX Steering Committee.

Transparency about Handling Reports: Be as transparent as possible about how the institution is handling reports of sexual harassment.
- Yale University publishes a semiannual Report of Complaints of Sexual Misconduct and an annual campus safety report to inform the campus community.

Assess Climate: Utilize climate surveys to further investigate and address systemic sexual harassment.
- The results of climate surveys should be shared publicly to demonstrate to the campus community that the institution takes the issue seriously. The Administration, Researcher Campus Climate Collaborative (ABCC) survey has been used by more than 150 higher education institutions.

Research Integrity: Consider sexual harassment equally important as research misconduct in terms of its effect on the integrity of research.
- The U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of the Interior have broad scientific integrity policies that apply to employees, appointees, volunteers, grantees, and contractors. Some scientific societies such as the American Geophysical Union have developed new ethics policies that explicitly call out sexual harassment and discrimination.

Diffuse the Hierarchical and Dependent Relationship Between Trainees and Faculty

Mentoring Networks: Adopt mentoring networks or committee-based advising that allows for a diversity of potential pathways for advice, funding, support, and informal reporting of harassment.

Independent Research Funding: Develop ways research funding can be provided to the trainee rather than just the principal investigator.

Provide Support for the Target

Access to Support Services: Provide means for the target of harassment to access support services (social services, health care, legal, career/professional).

Informal Reporting: Provide alternative and less formal means of recording information about the experience and reporting the experience.
- Provide anonymous, confidential reporting systems. Callisto is an online system that allows targets to control the disclosure of information, access supportive services, and share information on alleged perpetrators.
- Provide confidential reporting channels outside of the faculty or usual workplace hierarchy, such as an ombudsperson.
- Explore the use of restorative justice processes. The Campus PRISM (Promoting Restorative Initiatives for Sexual Misconduct) Project calls for accountability through collaboration and prevention through education.

Prevent Retaliation: Develop approaches to prevent the target from experiencing or fearing retaliation in academic settings.
- Be prepared to take action to ensure the target of the harassment is able to continue his/her academic work. This could include using mutual no contact orders between the accused and accuser, changing class schedules, changing the locks at the housing facility or workplace, rescinding building access for the accused, and reassigning advisors, mentors, and supervisors.

Strive for Strong and Diverse Leadership

Make it an Explicit Goal: College and university presidents, provosts, deans, department chairs, and program directors must make the reduction and prevention of sexual harassment an explicit goal of their tenure.

Develop Leadership Skills: Support and facilitate leaders at every level (university, school/college, department, lab) in developing skills in leadership, conflict resolution, mediation, negotiation, and de-escalation, and ensure a clear understanding of policies and procedures for handling sexual harassment issues.

Move Beyond Legal Liability: Leadership training programs should include training on how to recognize and handle sexual harassment issues, and how to take explicit steps to create a culture where harassment is reduced and prevented sexual harassment—and not just protect the institution against liability.

Available at www.nap.edu/sexualharassment/#resources

The National Academies of SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE
Recommendations Video:
https://youtu.be/juJu2mg5y5M

http://nationalacademies.org/SexualHarassment
#ScienceToo
Key Recommendations

Create diverse, inclusive, and respectful environments

- **Hiring and Promotion**: Take explicit steps to achieve greater gender and racial equity in hiring and promotions, and improve the representation of women at every level.

- **Civility-Promotion**: Combine anti-harassment efforts with programs to promote civility.

- **Interrupt and Intervene in Inappropriate Behavior**: Utilize training approaches that develop skills among participants to interrupt and intervene when inappropriate behavior occurs, such as bystander intervention.

- **Training that Aims to Change Behavior**: Training should focus on changing behavior, not on changing beliefs.
Key Recommendations

Diffuse the hierarchical and dependent relationship between trainees and faculty

- **Mentoring Networks:** Adopt mentoring networks or committee-based advising that allows for a diversity of potential pathways for advice, funding, support, and informal reporting of harassment.

- **Independent Research Funding:** Develop ways research funding can be provided to the trainee rather than just the principal investigator.
Key Recommendations

Provide support for targets

- **Access to Support Services:** Provide means for the target of harassment to access support services (social services, health care, legal, career/professional) without making a formal report.

- **Alternative and Informal Reporting:** Provide alternative and less formal means of recording information about the experience and reporting the experience.

- **Prevent Retaliation:** Develop approaches to prevent the target from experiencing or fearing retaliation in academic settings.
Key Recommendations

Improve transparency and accountability

• **Clear Policies:** Develop and share clear, accessible, and consistent policies on sexual harassment and standards of behavior. Make clear that people will be held accountable for violating the policies and using a range of escalating disciplinary consequences.

• **Transparency about Handling Reports:** Be as transparent as possible about how the institution is handling reports of sexual harassment, such as by providing annual report.

• **Assess Climate:** Utilize climate surveys to further investigate and address systemic sexual harassment.
Key Recommendations

Strive for strong and diverse leadership

• **Make it an Explicit Goal:** make the reduction and prevention of sexual harassment an explicit goal of your leadership tenure.

• **Develop Leadership Skills:** Support and facilitate leaders at every level in developing skills in leadership, conflict resolution, mediation, negotiation, and de-escalation, and ensure a clear understanding of policies and procedures for handling sexual harassment issues that is not just about protecting institutional liability.
Response to the Report

TOGETHER
we can do better
Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

Main goals:
1. Raise awareness about sexual harassment, its consequences, and preventing it
2. Share and elevate evidence-based policies and strategies for reducing and preventing sexual harassment
3. Contribute to setting a research agenda, and gather and apply research results across institutions
4. Develop a standard for measuring progress toward reducing and preventing sexual harassment in higher education
### Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Groups</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>Develop, implement, evaluate, and compile approaches for creating environments and organizational climates that prevent sexual harassment from occurring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response</td>
<td>Develop, implement, evaluate, and compile approaches for responding to sexual harassment so that it contributes to creating an organizational climate that sexual harassment is not tolerated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remediation</td>
<td>Develop, implement, evaluate, and compile approaches for systemic changes that can limit the damage caused by experiencing sexual harassment, and support those who experience it</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Develop and implement approaches for measuring the campus climate and gauge effect of policies and actions implemented by other working groups; identify the most effective ways to measure and monitor the climate within an organization; and identify metrics for measuring progress across higher education</td>
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Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education

Leadership Group
- Providing overall guidance and direction for the Action Collaborative.
- Includes leaders from the higher education community and leaders involved with the work of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Advisory Committee
- Providing advice and ensuring that the effort is grounded in research, inclusive of diverse voices, reflective of the experiences of victims, and consistent with the findings and recommendations of the National Academies report.
Action Collaborative Membership

American University in Cairo
Argonne National Laboratory
Boston University
Caltech
Carnegie Mellon University
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Colorado College
Columbia University and Columbia University Irving Medical Center
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Grinnell College
Harvard University
International Ombudsman Association
Johns Hopkins University
Los Angeles Community College District
Michigan State University
Mills College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
National Association of Graduate-Professional Students
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Northwestern University
Olin College of Engineering
Purdue University
Rutgers University
Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Stanford University
The Ohio State University
University of Alaska system
University of California Berkeley
University of California Los Angeles
University of California Merced
University of California Riverside
University of California San Diego
University of California San Francisco
University of California Santa Barbara
University of California Santa Cruz
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kansas
University of Maryland School of Medicine
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin System
University of Southern California
Vanderbilt University
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Washington University in St. Louis
Wellesley College
West Virginia University
Yale University

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE
First Annual Summit of the Action Collaborative

November 19-20, 2019 at the University of Washington

http://www.nas.edu/ACSummit2019
MIT’s Actions

Joined the Action Collaborative

Formed an Internal Working Group with a Board of Senior Leaders and Several Subcommittees

• Leadership and Engagement Working Group
• Training and Prevention Working Group
• Policies and Reporting Working Group
• Academic and Organizational Working Group

Group Chairs Meet Frequently with Senior Leaders To Discuss Progress and Programs
Sexual Harassment of Women
Climate, Culture, and Consequences in Academic Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

#ScienceToo
www.nationalacademies.org/sexualharassment