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Project Proposal:

Genesis of the Plan: When presented with Carole Ethingtons’s idea for a project centered on deepening knowledge of sexual/partner/power-based (s/p/p-b) violence, the original possibilities for the project were concerned with collecting information from different college campuses in the Nashville area to gain an understanding of the perspectives that exist in different populations regarding such violence. We also discussed looking into the resources for s/p/p-b violence on each campus as well as any programming that exists on the issue.

When it became apparent that our limited human resources would make an examination of the several campuses unwieldy, we scaled back our project to focus on Vanderbilt. Further conversation, investigation, and an awareness of our mandate as Cal Turner Fellows to include service and leadership development in the project led us to a consultation with Kayti Protos of the Margaret Cunningham Women’s Center at Vanderbilt. There we hoped to discover what programming Vanderbilt already had in place and learn more about the campus culture on this issue. We found a Women’s Center brimming with resources and good intentions but lacking any real connections with any of the graduate/professional schools. This has limited the Center’s outreach, something we found particularly troubling as the Center is working to implement a new response to s/p/p-b violence (called the Green Dot).

Goals:

1. Overarching: Discovering meaningful information on s/p/p-b violence at Vanderbilt University and using that to augment the Institute for Global Health’s work on the topic and substantively contribute to violence prevention and alleviation by members of the Vanderbilt University community.

2. Concrete: Develop the awareness and response of the different professionals represented by Vanderbilt’s graduate schools (and the Cal Turner Fellows) to s/p/p-b violence by finding places of entry within existing curriculum and programming or establishing a space for meaningful conversation, in all respects utilizing the resources and expertise of the Women’s Center. This goal hopes to establish sustained attention to the importance of Vanderbilt’s graduate programs’ represented professionals as such in responding to and preventing violence. It further hopes to lay the groundwork for increased partnership between the graduate programs and the Women’s Center.

3. Informational: Learning about and better understanding perspectives within fraternity houses on both (1) power-based violence and (2) the Women’s Center’s program regarding power-based violence. We plan to do so by first discussing with Ms. Protos exactly what information would be useful to the Women’s Center, and then by conducting informal interviews with various fraternities’ officers and brothers to gather the information. The information will be reported back to Ms. Protos and the Women’s Center in order to help the Center better adapt their existing program to fraternities and implement the program in the fraternities.