

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MASSACHUSETTS HALL
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
(617) 495-1502

May 14, 2014

Dear Professor Hyman:

I received, with great interest, your May 13 letter written on behalf of the Sexual Assault Task Force. I am grateful for the effort the Task Force is investing in understanding this complex issue. I anticipate that your further efforts and the final report will provide invaluable guidance to the Harvard community as we work together to establish the most effective ways to address the problem of sexual assault.

As I noted when the task force was constituted, Harvard will meet our legal obligations, but they alone should not bound our response to this behavior. We can, and indeed we must, do better. We have the responsibility to think in new ways about the best means of preventing sexual assault and ensuring that we are effectively responding to those who have experienced it. In the six weeks since I convened the Task Force, I have heard many members of our community—students, faculty, staff, and alumni—express concern over how we might best change the environment that allows sexual assault to occur.

I accept and will move at once to implement your four recommendations for immediate action. I appreciate the focus of the Task Force on important near-term improvements to our approach, and I will ensure that the University acts with equal promptness.

Sincerely,



Drew Gilpin Faust