



# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: May 18 - 19, 2015

SUBJECT: Prevention of Sexual Assault		Item Number: 3.2	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Student Services and Special Programs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Denise F. Noldon, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

**ISSUE:** The Board of Governors will be provided with an update on recent efforts, initiatives, and legislation to support the prevention of sexual assaults at California community colleges.

**BACKGROUND:**

While the problem of sexual assault at colleges and universities is not a new one, recent years have seen a heightened public awareness of the problem and expanded efforts to combat it. In July 2014, the Chancellor's Office administered a survey of our colleges to identify potential needs for technical assistance to support campus climate and safety efforts. The goal was to identify steps needed to comply with recently enacted legislation and document needs for technical assistance. Further, a task force was convened during the spring semester of 2014 consisting of Chief Student Services Officers with extensive experience at their respective colleges implementing awareness and education initiatives on campus climate and safety. The task force examined the survey results, recent legislative mandates, and other materials and developed a set of recommendations for the Chancellor's Office.

**RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented to the Board for information and discussion.

## **Survey Results and Task Force Recommendations**

### **1) Campus climate surveys**

*Review the campus climate survey requirements and either develop or endorse a model campus climate survey.*

- ❖ Of those that responded to the survey, 67 percent of respondents indicated that they regularly conduct campus climate surveys. Fifty-nine percent report that they publish the results of the campus climate surveys. Many of the institutions that publish survey results do so on their college's website.

The task force recommended following up with colleges that have conducted surveys and asking them to submit surveys that can be shared with other colleges, particularly those that have not conducted surveys in the past. The Chancellor's Office will work with the task force members to select effective surveys and endorse these as *model campus climate surveys*. These surveys and related information will be housed in an online portal designed for use by colleges seeking resources pertaining to campus climate and safety best and effective practices.

Chancellor's Office staff will continue to collaborate with the task force to develop and offer technical assistance related to campus climate surveys. For instance, the Institutional Effectiveness initiative will be utilized to provide technical assistance to colleges that need support in conducting campus climate surveys and compiling results of the survey in a report that can be used by the colleges to address climate issues that are of concern.

### **2) Sustained and comprehensive prevention programs and strategies**

*Compile resources and develop a manual of best practices around campus safety and campus climate.*

- ❖ Over 60 percent of respondents report that they provide ongoing sexual assault prevention and awareness programs for students, while 56 percent report that they provide ongoing prevention and awareness programs for employees. Nearly two-thirds of respondents say that their institutions provide information to students and employees on how to recognize warning signs of abusive behavior.
- ❖ Nearly 45 percent of respondents state that they provide primary prevention and awareness programs for incoming students, while about 40 percent report that they provide primary prevention and awareness programs for new employees. The respondents indicate that they are continuing to develop these programs for new students and new employees.
- ❖ Of all the colleges and districts that responded to the questionnaire, 85 percent provided a link to, or described their protocols for alerting and engaging local law enforcement. Protocols vary significantly, depending upon the size of the college, its campus security level and local law enforcement partnerships.

The task force recommended that “best practices” related to campus safety and campus climate should be housed in an online portal that is designed for and available for use by students as well as staff. By making this available in an online format, the information can be updated on a regular basis and made broadly available to all.

### **3) Task force will continue to advise the Chancellor’s Office on best practices and policy options**

*The task force should assist the Chancellor's Office in determining what other steps can be taken at the system-wide level to further assist colleges in fostering and maintaining healthy campus climates.*

- ❖ Of the colleges and districts that responded to the survey, 54 percent indicate that their colleges require specific employees to undergo training in sexual assault prevention and response. Thirty-seven percent require employees to periodically update and/or retake such trainings; nearly all of these require the trainings to be updated every two years or more frequently. Colleges use a combination of training providers: employees, online training, outside consultants, and community-based organizations.

The task force will partner with the Institutional Effectiveness staff to determine what type of training should be provided to colleges through regional training and webinars. A specific initial focus will be on implementing programs for education, awareness, and response pertaining to sexual assault victims. The task force will assist in gathering information from colleges about how they conduct training and share best practices on the delivery and design of such training programs.

The task force will assist the Chancellor’s Office in closely monitoring proposed and enacted legislation that requires specific action by colleges, which will be prioritized in any given year, so colleges have appropriate resources and support for implementing changes that result from enacted legislation.

Over time, the task force will continue to review issues related to campus climate and safety and provide continuing advice and input to the Chancellor’s Office. In addition, information and resources emerging from the task force’s deliberations will be shared with the colleges through the online portal. Additional topics the task force has identified for review include:

- Whether campuses employ trained confidential victim’s advocates
- Protocols for alerting and engaging local law enforcement, including Memoranda of Understanding with local law enforcement
- How campuses conduct sexual assault investigations
- Campus adjudication processes for sexual assault under disciplinary codes

#### **Other Efforts in Progress**

*Coordination with the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC).* Denise Nolden, Vice Chancellor of Student Services and Special Programs recently met with the CSU Chancellor’s Office staff to discuss emerging issues related to campus climate and safety. The

conversation focused on opportunities for collaborating and sharing resources that can be leveraged to ensure the messaging and implementation of programs and training reaches the entire population of college students in the state. At that meeting, CSU representatives shared information on a number of efforts underway at the system's 23 campuses to address prevention, awareness, and response to campus sexual violence. CSU recently recognized *Sexual Assault Awareness Month*, (as did some of our community colleges) to raise awareness and offer resources for educating students about sexual violence. In addition, an upcoming meeting with UC Student Affairs administrators is scheduled to discuss the topic of joint training and sharing of resources around sexual assault, Title IX, and campus safety best practices.

*Programs and trainings by CCC groups.* Efforts are underway with numerous CCC constituent groups to educate themselves about their role in ensuring safe campus environments and specifically preventing sexual violence on our campuses. Chief Student Service Officers, college health services faculty and staff, and students have conducted trainings and offered programs at conferences and on campuses on how to identify and establish services for victims, collaborate with community partners, hold teach-ins during Sexual Violence Awareness month, and share best practices for promoting awareness about sexual violence.

*Tracking new state and federal legislation.* Lawmakers in Sacramento and Washington, DC have responded to the sharp rise in sexual assaults on college campuses by introducing and passing numerous pieces of legislation. Chancellor's Office staff in the Governmental Relations, Student Services, and Legal Divisions is monitoring and analyzing these legislative proposals to ensure that the system's input is shared on pending proposals and that the colleges are well informed about newly enacted laws. Attachment 1 provides an overview of pending state and federal legislation dealing with sexual assault on college campuses.

As these and other efforts proceed, the Chancellor's Office will continue to work with colleges to share resources and provide training through webinars and online resources. We will continue to collaborate with partners both within and outside the CCC system to gather information on effective practices, new developments, and useful resources. It is our goal to ensure that sexual assault awareness and prevention education is widely available and that victims receive all available resources to assist them to deal with trauma resulting from sexual assault. The staff and administration in the Chancellor's Office will continue to collaborate on messaging and supporting the field on proposed and enacted legislation and dissemination of best and effective practices.