

WASHINGTON STATE

Council of Presidents

REPRESENTING WASHINGTON'S PUBLIC BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTIONS

Campus Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force Meeting #4
November 10, 2015
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Bellevue College North Campus

Attendees:

Natalie Dolci, King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Paul Francis, Council of Presidents; Joe Holliday, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges; Tricia Boerger and Bruce Marvin, Washington State Office of the Attorney General; Amanda Paye, University of Washington; Eric Richey, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; Kelly Schrader, The Evergreen State College; Sue Guenter-Schlesinger, Western Washington University; Richard DeShields, Central Washington University; Ana Blackstad, Bellevue College; Maddy Thompson, Washington Student Achievement Council; James Crandall, Senate Majority Coalition Caucus; Adam Hall, Senate Democratic Caucus; Evan Klein, Senate Higher Education Committee; Kat Monusky & Jen Friedlander, Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs; Luca Lewis, Whatcom Community College; and Chair John Vinson, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

Update on Seattle Public Schools Interim Report – Kelly Cue Davis

The Seattle Public Schools (SPS) Task Force for Prevention of and Response to Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault began its work in November 2014 in response to a number of high-profile incidents around sexual violence. The goal of the Task Force is to inform district leaders about how to improve their response to sexual assault. It is important to note that they are an advisory committee that makes recommendations only.

Task Force members include parents, teachers, classified staff, students, and coaches, among others. Kelly, a UW faculty member who does extensive research in this area, is a parent of two children in Seattle Public Schools. She serves on the Task Force in the role of community expert.

In May 2015, the Task Force issued an [interim report](#), which included the following recommendations:

- Include questions related to sexual harassment and assault in future surveys.
- Make printed materials (pamphlets, posters, fliers, etc.) available in back-to-school packets.
- Dedicate a page on the district's website to include resources related to this issue, including how to report.

- Educate families and school professionals on Title IX and the rights and responsibilities associated with it.
- Increase the number of counselors in the school district. This is related to available resources.
- Clearly identify the Title IX coordinator for each school. There has been ambiguity at some schools about who holds this position.
- Reinstate health-focused classes in middle schools. Health classes are now offered as electives at some schools. While there are state mandates for HIV/AIDS education, there are no mandates for sexual harassment and sexual violence education. Currently, this subject area is included in science classes, but takes a very diseased-based approach.
- Increase the number of health education managers to educate health care teachers.
- Increase access to lessons in FLASH (family life and sexual health), which is approved as a health curriculum by SPS. Teach FLASH at applicable grade levels and make curriculum more consistent.
- Add sexual assault-related training to social and emotional health curriculum, which has been a focus at SPS. Currently, different models are used at different schools and are chosen to reflect needs of each community. Models often don't address issues of consent or sexual assault.
- Identify how Title IX coordinators are located within the district and how they respond to investigations.

Other items related to the SPS Task Force were discussed, including:

- SPS has announced that they will be creating an Office of Civil Rights to include a Title IX coordinator. The director of that office has been hired but other positions still need to be filled.
- FLASH is currently being revamped by placing more focus on gender and LGBTQ populations. Middle school curriculum will focus more on how to stop perpetrators and less on victim responsibilities.
- Concerns about reinstating mandatory health classes were discussed. For middle schools, cost and availability of resources are the greatest concern. For high schools, the challenge may be adding health classes to a student's full schedule. High school health classes are often taken online, but some are not accredited and don't include comprehensive coverage of sexual assault.
- The Task Force is currently writing the final report, which will be available by the end of this year. The report will be delivered to the superintendent and then disseminated to the school board.
- The Task Force was chartered for one year. At their next meeting members will discuss recommending continuation of the Task Force or the creation of an advisory committee.
- The fact that there were no report recommendations related to discipline due to concerns about the quality of existing recommendations.

Ana mentioned a relevant group to our work: the Northwest Association of Title IX Administrators (NWATIXA). The specific purpose of NWATIXA is to "eliminate barriers to education caused by incidents of sex-based or gender-based discrimination, harassment, or violence." They recently held

their first conference at Gonzaga University in Spokane. Membership includes professionals from both the K-12 arena as well as public and private four and two-year colleges and universities. Julia Dunn from Whitman College is the current president. Additional information on NWATIXA can be found at: <http://www.nwatixa.org/>.

Subcommittee Updates:

- **Grievance Processes (APA/Student Conduct)** – They have held multiple conference calls to critically examine the student conduct process at the 34 community and technical colleges and their interpretation of the APA. They have also discussed the multiple levels of appeals that expand the timeline in sexual assault cases – something that may not necessarily be trauma informed. The group also heard from individuals for whom student conduct is their profession, including Ana Blackstad; each shared their perspectives and concern about student conduct proceedings resembling quasi-courtrooms. Student conduct investigations are designed to have an educational outcome that can also have the benefit of community safety. Subcommittee members have also discussed the application of the APA and the utility of professionals who understand both academia and the legal system to ensure the application of it is successful. The group has also discussed the issue of resource differences between institutions and how that impacts the issue. Members reiterated the importance of focusing on the needs of students in this process.
- **Campus Climate Assessment** – Members reminded the Task Force that both the public four and two-year sectors are mandated to perform an assessment under Section 4 of SB 5518. Some colleges and universities already survey their students and others on this topic, while others do not. It is unclear how and in what role the independent colleges will be participating in this new requirement. During the last conference call the group discussed the value in agreeing on a core set of questions that could be included in any survey that is given to our students, staff, and faculty. For example, there is a list of questions in the federal “Not Alone” report appendix that could be utilized in our state. Joe Holliday discussed a key challenge for the two-year sector is that it needs to be administered on 34 different community and technical college campuses. The SBCTC will be working with Campus Clarity on their assessment through the portal that all their colleges are using for Title IX training. Members mentioned the need to agree on how colleges and universities ask for demographic data and ensure that received data is disaggregated in order to best serve individual communities within larger populations. The group is reviewing current assessments given by colleges and universities across the nation; there is strong interest in ensuring that surveys given by Washington colleges and universities are culturally responsive and an appropriate length so as to ensure the quantity and quality of information received. Members will work to clarify the role of the UW and WSU given their existing survey instruments and to ensure student leadership on campuses is consulted as the surveys become further developed.
- **Criminal Justice System Workgroup** – The group has met once thus far and has discussed how to improve prosecution responses to campus sexual assaults. They are also critically examining vertical prosecution, where a case is assigned to a single prosecutor who is responsible for the case at each step in the judicial process from initial appearance through a final disposition. Currently all Washington counties utilize vertical prosecution except King County, which utilizes horizontal prosecution. The group will also be discussing how

prosecutors decline sexual assault cases and the extent to which the language in those letters impacts survivors in conduct hearings and elsewhere.

- **MOU's** – Staff from the UW Police Department have organized a number of meetings on this topic. Two draft documents have been created and will be presented to WASPC at their meeting next week. The two documents reflect two dual perspectives: 1) a general policy that can be applied across the state; and 2) a narrow version to focus on specific needs of jurisdictions.

Chair Vinson noted that the HB 1068 Task Force created this year will be meeting on Friday. Chair Vinson serves on that committee and will keep Task Force members updated.

Task Force members also discussed Section 4 of SB 5518, which requires colleges and universities to report to the Legislature by December 31, 2016 on a plan or proposal to undertake a statewide public awareness campaign on campus sexual violence. Staff from the Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs mentioned that they have managed a statewide awareness campaign for many years (funded through the Department of Commerce's Office of Crime Victims Advocacy and thus may be a critical resource in this area. Task Force members discussed the need to create a new subcommittee to undertake that work.

Natalie led a discussion about how the Southeastern Conference has developed a policy to prevent students to transfer to their members' athletic teams who have a history of domestic violence, sexual assault or other serious violence while they were enrolled at prior institutions. Apparently this has been discussed at Pac-12 Conference meetings. Much of the focus in these discussions has been on serial offenders. This could be a consequence if student actions related to sexual assault were placed on a student transcript. Task Force members discuss having that permanently listed on the transcript and how that could impact an individual beyond education.

➤ **Decisions/Action Items:**

- Chair Vinson will share copies of the draft MOU's with Task Force members.
- Paul will reach out to subcommittee chairs for a brief summary of their work thus far to include in the report.
- Please send feedback regarding the draft report to the Legislature to Paul. Also, college or university representatives: please forward your summary of current practices to Paul for inclusion in our report (to be voted on during the December meeting).
- Please send agenda items for our December meeting to Chair Vinson and/or Paul.
- Next meeting: Thursday, December 17 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Western Washington University in Bellingham.