

The 2013 University of North Carolina Campus Security Initiative

Thank you for agreeing to serve as part of the 2013 University of North Carolina Campus Security Initiative. Each of you has been selected to serve on a work group or the expert advisory committee for this important system-wide effort because of your background, expertise, and interest in areas that will help the University to ensure that our students, faculty, staff, and guests are safe and secure on all University campuses.

Background

Throughout higher education, concerns about sexual assault and other violent crimes, campus security, and public disclosure of crime information have become topics of a national conversation. In order for the University to pursue its three-part mission of teaching, research, and service, we must do everything feasible to promote a safe environment on our campuses and ensure that the rights of individuals are respected. The crime rate for UNC campuses is significantly below the statewide crime rate, suggesting that the vast majority of UNC students will not become the victim of a violent crime while enrolled as a student on a UNC campus. Still, there is more to be done. Thus, our own campus leaders, students, and staff are taking part in the conversation, working to raise awareness and to identify and respond to threats posed by sexual assault and other violent crimes.

The University of North Carolina seeks to be a leader among higher education institutions in identifying and implementing the best methods and practices for identifying, responding to, and adjudicating offenses against persons, especially those involving sexual harassment and other violent crimes. The University also seeks to ensure that the campus law-enforcement operations at each of our campuses function in accordance with well-designed policies and procedures that ensure safe and secure campus environments, result in appropriate responses to crime, and enhance campus security. The University seeks to ensure that all information and reports of criminal activity and other matters of concern that occur on or near our campuses are properly captured and promptly, honestly, and accurately reported in accordance with applicable law. We are committed to setting the standard among higher education institutions for keeping our campus communities informed about crime and security concerns. Finally, the University seeks to recognize and address the role that alcohol and drug use play in each of these areas.

Work Groups and Advisory Committee

The UNC Campus Security Initiative consists of three work groups and an expert advisory committee made up of University faculty, staff, law-enforcement personnel, students, parents, and subject-matter experts.

The work groups and their areas of focus are as follows:

Responding to Offenses Against Persons: This work group will focus on the campus and system-level policies, procedures, and practices for responding to and addressing offenses against persons, with particular attention to sexual harassment and other offenses involving students and compliance with Title IX requirements.

Campus Public Safety: This work group will address the functions and procedures of campus police departments and campus public safety operations. The group will review procedures relating to the criminal investigative function, including receipt of reports and initial responses, collection, and safeguarding of evidence, presentation to prosecuting authorities, and treatment of crime victims. The work group will also address relations with the campus community and local law enforcement, needs for education and training, and resources needed by campuses to maintain highly effective law enforcement functions.

Security Reporting and Awareness: This work group will focus on campus- and system-level policies, procedures, and practices for ensuring accurate and timely reporting of campus crime and security information, with particular focus on compliance with federal Clery Act requirements.

The **Expert Advisory Committee** consists of University personnel, as well as individuals from outside the University, including community members, a judge, a criminal defense attorney, leaders in the area of sexual assault prevention, parents, subject matter experts and others. Expert Advisory Committee members will lend insight and assistance to the work groups and the University on this initiative, as needed.

Duties

Within their assigned areas of focus, each work group is asked to evaluate the current policies, reporting data, procedures, and practices on our campuses and at the system level. With assistance and input from the Advisory Committee and other experts, each work group will gather and evaluate the best thinking and practices available from outside the University system and from any other sector or industry that has addressed similar issues. Each work group will develop recommendations for system-level policies, regulations, guidelines, practices, compliance measures, tools, training, and procedures that, when implemented, will result in consistent and effective responses and awareness across each campus in the area of the work group's focus. Finally, each work group will address the role that alcohol and drug use play in their area of focus, and make recommendations for system-level policies, procedures, education, and training, as needed.

Organization and Reporting Responsibilities

The President will designate two co-chairs for the Initiative and a leader for each work group. Each work group leader is responsible for coordinating with designated staff to organize meetings and materials for work group members. The co-chairs and the work group leaders will keep the President, through designated staff, informed of the substantive issues under consideration by the work groups. The work group leaders will collaborate with the co-chairs on the preparation and submission of a single written report, including recommendations, which will be delivered to the President. The final report will be due in the Spring of 2014.

Staff Support

The General Counsel and Chief of Staff will provide staff assistance to the Initiative, each of the work groups and the advisory committee, including organization of meetings and materials.