

Minutes are intended to note: (a) the date, time and place of the meeting; (b) those members of the public body who were present and those who were absent; and (c) the substance of all matters proposed, discussed and/or action was taken on. Minutes are not intended to be a verbatim report of a meeting. An audio recording of the meeting is available for inspection by any member of the public interested in a verbatim report of the meeting. These minutes are not final until approved by the Board of Regents at a future meeting.

NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION TASK FORCE ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

NSHE System Administration Office Building
4300 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

and

NSHE System Administration Office Building
2601 Enterprise Road
Reno, Nevada 89512

Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Dr. Kavita Batra (Zoom)
 Chancellor Dale Erquiaga (Las Vegas)
 Dr. Tabor Griswold (Reno)
 Dr. Elizabeth Gunn (Las Vegas)
 Ms. Yvette Machado (Zoom)
 Mr. James Martines (Las Vegas)
 Ms. Michelle Sposito (Zoom)
 Ms. Gwyndelyn Chen (Zoom)

Chair Dr. Elizabeth Gunn called the Sexual Misconduct Task Force meeting to Order at 9:04 a.m. with a quorum present.

1. Information Only Public Comment

Las Vegas: None.

Reno: None.

Electronic Submissions: None

2. Information Only - Chair Report – Chair Gunn thanked her colleagues and the Sexual Misconduct Task Force (“Task Force”) members for their work over the summer on this initiative. Dr. Gunn met with most of the Task Force members individually and with Regent Carvalho and Acting Chancellor Erquiaga about the work done so far and to provide an overview of the vision, mission, and direction of the Task Force. The primary objective is to comply with SB 347, an unfunded mandate. Chair Gunn also met with stakeholders from UNLV’s Cannon Survey Center as well as UNR’s Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluations and Statistics to

discuss the possible scope of work, presentation of data and possible affiliated costs. If funding becomes available through the System Office, the Chair would like to move forward with the survey instruments provided by UNR for distribution early spring 2023 if agreed upon by the Task Force. This direction will allow the Task Force to maintain a reasonable and proactive agenda going forward with survey distribution, implementation, evaluation and presentation of data with recommendations.

3. Approved - Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the April 25, 2022, meeting.

Chair Gunn moved to approve the April 25, 2022, minutes. Task Force Member Dr. Kavita Batra seconded. Motion carried.

4. Approved - Election of Vice Chair. In accordance with NRS 396.141(3) the Task Force shall conduct an election of a Vice Chair who will serve from the date of election until January 31, 2023. During the first meeting of the Task Force, the Committee held an election where a Chair and Vice Chair were elected. Since that time the Nevada System of Higher Education has had a change in administration and Dr. Gunn (then Vice Chair) took over the responsibilities of Chair and the Vice Chair position became vacant. NRS 396.141(3) requires an election to occur at the first meeting of every odd year. The election of a Vice Chair for this election cycle would be for a very short stint until January 31, 2023, at which time the elected Vice Chair can decide if they want to be reelected, seek to be Chair, or not run at all.

Task Force Member James Martines nominated Dr. Tabor Griswold for Vice Chair. Task Force Member Dr. Kavita Batra seconded. Motion carried. Dr. Griswold accepted the nomination and thanked the Task Force Members for the opportunity.

5. Information Only - Sexual Violence Complexities – Member Gwendelyn Chen, Campus Advocate with Crisis Support Services of Nevada, gave a comprehensive presentation on the complexities of sexual violence. Ms. Chen gave a brief introduction and provided her background and experience with working and advocating for victims of sexual abuse. Ms. Chen's presentation included describing

gender-based violence and its repercussions, sexual harassment and violence, consent, the symptoms and impacts of trauma, statistics and reporting and gaps in services and resources available both on and off campus.

Member James Martines asked about the statistics and whether Ms. Chen's non-profit or other agencies track the numbers and if so, where can the statistics be found.

Ms. Chen responded that gathering data has proven challenging. Ms. Chen tracks her own cases and receives information from the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence and from RAINN – Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network.

6. Information Only - Development of System-Wide Climate Survey – Chair Gunn and Veronica Dahir led a discussion on the development of metrics and methodology that may be involved in an NSHE system-wide climate survey regarding sexual misconduct which includes dating violence, domestic violence, gender-based violence, gender-based harassment, violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, sexual assault, sexual harassment and stalking or indecent exposure. Chair Gunn gave a summary of the reviewed best practices and instruments presented at the April Sexual Misconduct Task Force Meeting and identified goals of the survey.

Dr. Veronica Dahir, Director of Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluations and Statistics, the survey lab at the University of Nevada, Reno, as well as the Director of the Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies, identified the scope and topics of the survey developed for WNC and believes that survey could work system-wide with a few changes to comply with SB347. Dr. Dahir discussed using text and e-mail-based rollouts and the costs associated therewith, as well as using incentives. Dr. Dahir then discussed how the data would be presented to the Task Force: Dr. Dahir also discussed the timing of the survey and reporting per SB 347. Implementation of a Fall survey would be for awareness and prevention and a Spring survey would measure prevalence.

Tina Russom, Deputy General Counsel, reminded everyone that SB347 had been codified into NRS 396 and the tools and characteristics of a climate survey can be found in 396.125 through 396.1595. Ms. Russom stated that the Board of Regents has not mandated or required a survey at each institution which is discretionary in SB347. Should the Board of Regents mandate the climate survey for each institution, then the February reporting deadline would be applicable. Specifically, it would require a report

of the summaries also go to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Senate and Assembly Standing Committee on Education.

Member James Martines stated that the Task Force may wish to make a recommendation to the Board of Regents to mandate a climate survey at which point the future reporting would be triggered.

Acting Chancellor Erquiaga recommended that the Task Force have the survey, budget and funding request ready for an action item at the December or January meeting. Acting Chancellor Erquiaga explained the process by which the Task Force would request funding and the timing based on the Board of Regents' schedule and deadlines.

Member Dr. Tabor Griswold agreed with Acting Chancellor Erquiaga and stated that the completed WNC survey would make a great bookmark around our proposed process and gives the Legislature something to "chew on".

Member Dr. Kavita Batra asked Dr. Dahir if race and ethnicity would be separated as two questions on the survey and what Dr. Dahir's recommendation would be.

Dr. Dahir responded that it is typically asked in two questions, "ethnicity" first and "race" second and asks the students to self-identify and check all the boxes that apply.

Dr. Batra then asked how we will make sure we are getting unique responses.

Dr. Dahir responded that they obtain lists of students from institutions and add the names to the surveys when sending out, i.e., Dear John Smith, and each survey will have a unique link associated with the student.

Dr. Tabor Griswold stated that in her experience people select white under ethnicity when not traditionally considered white. Dr. Griswold added the question, "what is the primary language you speak?" to her surveys which gives the analyst a better idea of the correct ethnicity.

Member Gwendelyn Chen asked if the survey will only cover instances that happen on-campus or will be lifetime experiences.

Dr. Dahir responded that yes, we ask if the instance happened on, or off-campus and we also ask if it impacted their ability to perform at their school.

7. New Business. Dean Gunn called for any items of new business to be added to the next agenda.

Acting Chancellor Erquiaga stated that there are two vacancies on the task force, and he is collaborating with the institutional presidents and should have replacements approved by the Board at the December 1st and 2nd meeting.

8. Information Only-Public Comment –

Las Vegas: None.

Reno: None

Electronic Submissions: None

Dr. Gunn thanked Dr. Griswold for her willingness to serve as Vice Chair, Gwendelyn Chen for her presentation, Dr. Dahir for detailed guidance on the survey, and special thank you to Acting Chancellor Erquiaga for instruction and guidance in moving us forward. Chair Gunn also thanked her colleagues and Nevada System of Higher Education staff for the meeting infrastructure.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Prepared by: Cathy Bandoni
Legal Assistant, Nevada System of Higher Education

Submitted for approval by: Tina Russom
Deputy General Counsel