

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 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

Monday, April 25, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Members Present:

- Dr. Kavita Batra (Zoom)
- Ms. Kristen Demay (Reno)
- Ms. Maria Doucettperry (Reno)
- Dr. Tabor Griswold (Reno)
- Dr. Elizabeth Gunn (Las Vegas)
- Mr. Zachary Johnigan (Zoom)
- Ms. Michelle Sposito (Zoom)
- Ms. Gwyndelyn Thompson (Reno)
- Mr. James Martines (Las Vegas)

Dr. Gunn called the Sexual Misconduct Task Force meeting to Order at 3:01 p.m. with all members present except for Dr. Alison Netski and Ms. Leslie Ramirez. Also absent was the Chancellor of the System, or his or her designee. Deputy General Counsel Tina Russom advised the Committee that Vice Chair Dean Elizabeth Gunn will step into the role of Chair given the recent vacancy in the role. The position of Vice Chair will remain open until an election is held pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order. The committee role of Chief General Counsel of the System will temporarily be filled by a representative of the NSHE legal team, Mr. James Martines.

1. Information Only-Public Comment

Las Vegas:

None.

Reno:

Kent Ervin, President of the Nevada Faculty Alliance (NFA), shared NFA's concerns about long delays in the investigation and resolution of Title IX cases. Mr. Ervin suggested steps to resolve the delays and thanked the Task Force for their work.

2. Approved - Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the February 17, 2022, meeting.

Task Force Member Zachary Johnigan moved to approve the February 17, 2022, minutes. Task Force Member Kristen Demay seconded. Motion carried.

3. Information Only-Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey Instruments and Best Practices – Dr. Jennifer Lowman, Ph.D., Director for the Office of Student Persistence Research at the University of Nevada Reno, gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on climate survey instruments, best practices for biennial distribution of sexual misconduct climate surveys across educational institutions, strategies for promoting survey completion, and measuring response rates.

Dr. Batra expressed concern about the timing of administering the survey, in particular surveying Freshman in the fall would reflect High School experiences.

Dr. Lowman responded that the survey limits the timeframe to the current academic year. If high school experiences were reported by students, they were not included in the data analysis or reports.

Dr. Batra asked Dr. Lowman if reminders were sent to students during the open survey period.

Dr. Lowman responded that reminders were sent to students every three days and during strategic times.

Dr. Batra asked if pilot testing was done before launching the survey.

Dr. Lowman responded that she reached out to certain groups to get their feedback on the survey before it's launch.

Dr. Gunn asked about the timing of the surveys (early fall or late fall) and asked Dr. Lowman to clarify the riskiest time on campus.

Dr. Lowman responded that early fall turns out to be the riskiest time.

4. Information Only - Climate Survey Subcommittee Development – Dean Gunn invited members of the Task Force to discuss the development of a subcommittee to examine sexual misconduct climate survey models and distribution strategies.

Dr. Batra commented that she would like to also develop a subcommittee to create a timeline of action items to be performed.

5. Failed – Climate Survey Subcommittee Charge – Dr. Gunn invited Members of the Task Force to discuss the charge of a Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey Subcommittee which may be authorized to assess various climate survey models, distribution strategies, and associated costs and asked if any Members wanted to make a motion. No motion was made. Therefore, the Task Force moved on to Item No. 6.

6. Information only - New Business. Dean Gunn expressed that an election for Vice Chair will be added to the next Agenda.

Ms. Gwendelyn Thompson reminded the Task Force that the basis of SB 347 was to create a safer environment for victims and survivors, provide them with choices and empowerment and intervene and prevent sexual violence and harassment in a trauma informed and victim centered way. The Task Force can make recommendations to the Board of Regents surrounding policies, procedures and resources to adopt on campuses and are not limited to a survey. At the next meeting, Ms. Thompson would like the members of the Task Force to be educated in order to ensure that all members are familiar with nuances of sexual violence on campus.

7. Information Only-Public Comment –

Las Vegas:

None.

Reno:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

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

Submitted for approval by: Tina Russom
Deputy General Counsel