Minutes – June 7, 2023

The seventh meeting of the Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys was called to order at 1:30 p.m. via video conference as permitted for advisory bodies under the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/79(d)(D)(ii).

The following Task Force members were present: Ginger Ostro (Chair), Brenda Angulo, Natalie Bennett, Elizabeth Cook, Megan Greeson, Alison Hill, Patricia Hindo, Julia Howland, Jaya Kolisetty, Mindy Schneiderman, Kathryn Statz, Representative Katie Stuart, Samir Tanna, and Jarrett Williams.

The following Task Force members were absent: Madeleine Behr, Representative Norine Hammond, Jessica Magliocco, Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Jasmine Routon, Radhika Sharma, Nabilah Talib, and Senator Jil Tracy.

Others present: Ashley Lewis (IBHE), Melissa Van (IBHE) and David Antonacci (IBHE).

The meeting was recorded, and the recording has been posted on the IBHE website.

A. Open Meetings Act Motions, Call to Order, and Approval of Meeting Minutes

• Approval of Open Meetings Act Motions

The following motions were made presented by IBHE once a quorum of Task Force members was reached. The first motion stated:

The Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys adopts procedural rules in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7) to allow members of the Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys to meet by other means than in-person meetings.

It shall be the policy of Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys that members of this Body are allowed to meet virtually and/or telephonically, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/7(d)(D)(ii). Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys is an advisory body that does not have authority to make binding recommendations or determinations or to take any other substantive action.

It shall be the procedure of Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys to continue to abide by the notice, posting, recording, and all other provisions of the Open Meetings Act for members of the public and other
stakeholders to fully participate in the proceedings of Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys.

Alison Hill moved to pass Motion 1 and Representative Katie Stuart seconded. The motion was passed on a roll call vote. Task Force members voting in favor of Motion 1 were: Brenda Angulo, Natalie Bennett, Elizabeth Cook, Alison Hill, Patricia Hindo, Julia Howland, Jaya Kolisetty, Mindy Schneiderman, Kathryn Statz, Representative Katie Stuart, Samir Tanna, and Jarrett Williams. No members voted against Motion 1.

The second motion presented by IBHE stated:

Members of the public are offered the opportunity to address the Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys virtually at each properly noticed public meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120). The public's ability to comment at public meetings is only constrained by procedural rules put in place by each subject public body.

As such, the Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys requires that members of the public request an opportunity to provide public comment at a time and manner specified at the beginning of each meeting. Public comment may be made virtually and/or telephonically. The Chair or designee will recognize public commenters in the order in which they registered their interest in providing comment. While the Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys welcomes public comment, the Chair is permitted to limit the time comment may be made by an individual to no less than two minutes to permit as many comments as possible while also maintaining decorum of each public meeting.

Jaya Kolisetty moved to pass Motion 2 and Kathryn Statz seconded. The motion was passed on a roll call vote. Task Force members voting in favor of Motion 2 were: Brenda Angulo, Natalie Bennett, Elizabeth Cook, Megan Greeson, Alison Hill, Patricia Hindo, Julia Howland, Jaya Kolisetty, Mindy Schneiderman, Kathryn Statz, Representative Katie Stuart, Samir Tanna, and Jarrett Williams. No members voted against Motion 2.

- **Call Meeting to Order by Chairperson Ginger Ostro**

  Chairperson Ostro called the meeting order, explained the Open Meetings Act (OMA) protocol, and stated that the meeting would be recorded, and explained how to make public comment.

- **May 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

  Chairperson Ostro confirmed that we had a quorum of members. The May 3, 2023 meeting minutes were approved by a roll call vote.
B. Base Survey Discussion

Ashley Lewis explained the process the Survey Building Working Group used to create the draft of the base survey. The Working Group reviewed questions from ARC3, AAU, and NIU surveys based on our statutory requirements. The Working Group then split into smaller sub-groups and were assigned statutory subsections to either recommend or create questions that met the requirement. Each statutory subsection’s questions were reviewed and discussed by the Working Group at least twice before moving forward. The current base survey also uses ARC3 and AAU definitions for terms throughout the survey.

The draft base survey contains 13 sections with 91 questions and includes opt-in language to reduce the risk of re-traumatization of students. The draft survey utilizes skip logic so that students without any sexual misconduct to report will take a shorter survey. The base survey covers all of the Task Force’s statutory requirements under P.A. 102-0325.

Members of the Survey Building Working Group were asked to speak on the base survey to provide context to the other Task Force members. Chairperson Ostro asked for reactions, thoughts, or questions on the base survey from the entire Task Force. Ashley Lewis started going through the sections of the document to go over the important points in each section and to allow members to discuss. Alison Hill asked about a recommendation for the survey being in other languages and available via audio for the visually impaired. Chairperson Ostro says that there are recommendations on this in the Implementation Plan. Alison followed up by asking if we were going to include the option in the instructions. Chairperson Ostro answered that if available the student would receive the survey in an appropriate language or form.

In Section III of the base survey, Ashley Lewis pointed out a definition of a term and explained that the intention of the Working Group was that if the student hovered or clicked on the term in the survey a pop-up would come up that defined the term. For Section VI on Sexual and Gender Based Harassment, Ashley Lewis pointed out the opt-in language that allows the survivor to choose whether they want to answer more detailed questions about the incident. In this section, Megan Greeson pointed out that the questions relating to the gender of the perpetrator assumed only one perpetrator. Ashley Lewis noted that and said she would make the change.

In Section IX on Sexual Violence, Ashley pointed out that there is a general question asking whether the student experienced any sexual violence before moving to the opt-in question. Once the student decided to continue, they would see more detailed questions relating to the incident. Julia Howland asked if there was going to be a definition for “unwanted sexual contact” as seen in Question 59. Ashley Lewis responded that she did not receive a definition for this term from members of the Working Group and asked if Mindy Schneiderman knew if ARC3 or AAU had a definition for “unwanted sexual contact.” Megan Greeson commented that we should remove “sexual violence” and just have “unwanted sexual contact” with a definition. Megan Greeson pointed out that using Question 59 as a screener would reduce the reporting of sexual assault and was
concerned about this. Julia Howland said that she hoped a broad definition of “unwanted sexual contact” would correct for some of reduction in reporting. Mindy Schneiderman said that AAU and ARC3 did not have a definition for “unwanted sexual contact” in their surveys. Megan Greeson suggested cutting Question 59. Brenda Angulo suggested that if the definition of “unwanted sexual contact” contained descriptors of behaviors that it would help with prevalence and would still minimize re-traumatization. Megan expressed the concern that we would not be able to find a definition that would be comprehensive but also not triggering. Julia Howland said that this was discussed in the Working Group and that it felt less triggering to have a comprehensive definition than to have the student recount the details of the incident before agreeing to continue. Ashley Lewis asked for volunteers from the Task Force members to craft a definition for “unwanted sexual contact.” Brenda, Megan, and Julia volunteered to help craft this definition.

Ashley Lewis explained some of the member-created questions that were located in Section XI on Institutional Responses. Julia Howland asked if this section would be only seen by those who had reported sexual misconduct in other sections. Ashley Lewis replied that the intention was that all students would answer questions in this section.

C. Task Force Report Content and Discussion

Ashley Lewis gave a brief overview of the draft of the Task Force Report and what is included in each section of the report. Mindy Schneiderman asked how IBHE would be notifying institutions about the public comment period. Chairperson Ostro explained that it would be posted on our website with a form for public comment. She explained that she would include the public comment period in her remarks at the IBHE Board Meeting later in the month and that we would follow a similar process to the institutional readiness survey that was sent out to all institutions earlier in the Task Force.

D. Implementation Plan Discussion

To address Alison Hill’s question about the survey being available in languages other than English, Ashley Lewis explained the new Implementation Recommendation Number 6 that was added based on the discussion during the May Task Force meeting. Alison Hill commented that we may need to update the recommendation to include an audio option for students who are visually impaired. Megan Greeson commented that some students may have access to a screen reader to read the survey for them. Julia Howland asked if there is anything we need to do to make it more accessible to such screen readers. Natalie Bennett suggested talking to disabilities services to make sure the format of the survey can be read by screens. Mindy Schneiderman said that most online survey software has the capability to select the theme and schools would just need to make sure they are choosing one that would be compatible with screen readers and other devices. Julia Howland asked if we could provide examples of themes that are accessible. Mindy Schneiderman said that each software tool has different options.
Kathryn Statz pointed out that the phrase “cost/benefit” in Recommendation Number 6 did not capture what we wanted to convey. Chairperson Ostro suggested that we remove this phrasing and work on updating the language before the public comment period.

E. Public Comment
   • Call for Public Comment by Chairperson Ostro

Chairperson Ostro announced at the beginning of the meeting how to sign up to give public comment. Ashley Lewis called for public comment and no one requested to speak.

F. Next Steps

Chairperson Ostro explained that we would post the draft Task Force Report for public comment next week. Public comments would be sent to the Task Force members during the week of July 3rd and the final Task Force meeting will be on July 12th.