



Approved
June 7, 2023

TASK FORCE ON CAMPUS SEXUAL MISCONDUCT CLIMATE SURVEYS

Minutes – May 3, 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 by Public Act 101-0640 enacted June 12, 2020. Other IBHE staff members were present at the IBHE office.

The following Task Force members were present: Ginger Ostro (Chair), Brenda Angulo, Madeleine Behr, Natalie Bennett, Elizabeth Cook, Megan Greeson, Patricia Hindo, Julia Howland, Jaya Kolisetty, Mindy Schneiderman, Radhika Sharma, Kathryn Statz, Nabilah Talib, and Jarrett Williams.

The following Task Force members were absent: Alison Hill, Representative Norine Hammond, Jessica Magliocco, Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Jasmine Routon, Representative Katie Stuart, Samir Tanna, and Senator Jil Tracy.

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

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

A. Call to Order and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **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.

- **February 8, 2023 and March 8 Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Ostro confirmed that we had a quorum of members. The minutes from the February 8 and March 8 meeting were approved separately by a roll call vote.

B. Implementation Plan Discussion

Ashley Lewis explained how the Implementation Plan was created using Task Force, Incentive and Implementation Working Group discussions, Task Force reports from other states, and an ARC3 Survey tip sheet. The Implementation Plan approved by the Incentive and Implementation Working Group was sent to the entire Task Force in March and corrections were made based on this feedback.





The Implementation Plan was presented so that everyone could view and discuss. For the first recommendation under General Approach, Natalie Bennett asked about the process for IBHE to ask for funding for the state-wide coordinated effort. Chairperson Ostro replied that the group could make the recommendation that IBHE include this in its budget recommendations. Megan Greeson stated that the Implementation Plan was vague and wondered if we should provide examples. Chairperson Ostro said that if there were examples people wanted to include, we could do so in the Task Force Report's Appendix. Kathryn Statz said that Recommendation 5 seemed unclear to people and that we should add a cross-reference to Recommendation 4 of General Approach. Megan Greeson suggested we update Recommendation 5 under the General Approach to add that the institutions should administer the survey at a consistent time each year.

Chairperson Ostro asked for comments and questions under the Student Recruitment/Outreach section of the Implementation Plan. Kathryn Statz asked about the recruitment materials being commonly spoken languages and wanted to know if there had been discussion of translating the base survey instrument into commonly spoken languages on the campus. Natalie Bennett commented that cultural centers or the center for student involvement may translate recruitment materials, but she had not seen instruments translated into other languages. Mindy Schneiderman stated that NIU did its sexual misconduct survey and recruitment materials in English only. Kathryn Statz stated that this was worrisome because it would not ensure involvement by students of all kinds. Radhika Sharma recommended that the state translate the document into the most commonly spoken languages by college students in Illinois. She went on to state that there are universities with modern language departments that offer such services pro bono. Julia Howland commented that translating the survey should be done at the state level because we need to make sure it is the same for everyone for survey results to be reliable. Mindy Schneiderman stated it gets very complicated to offer in multiple languages and such computer programming will take a long time. There was some discussion on which state agency might have information on the most commonly used languages among college students. Mindy Schneiderman said that at NIU the assumption was made that since all classes are held in English that the student would be comfortable answering a survey in English. Radhika Sharma stated that since we are including all kinds of schools, such as trade schools, that these students are more likely to have less English language acquisition and are more likely to be victims of sexual misconduct. Chairperson Ostro suggested the IBHE would draft a recommendation on translation for the group to review in the Task Force report.

Megan Greeson suggested adding social media as a passive recruitment method to this section. Mindy Schneiderman confirmed that NIU uses social media for recruitment and Natalie Bennett suggested that it was an essential way to get students' attention. Natalie Bennett asked what we meant by "identity crisis centers". No one at the Task Force meeting could recall why this was added. It was suggested to be reframed as "cultural and equity centers."

Chairperson Ostro asked for comments and questions under the Incentive section of the Implementation Plan. Megan Greeson commented that to give gift cards a student would





be required to submit an email which would not make the survey anonymous. She recommended putting a separate link at the end of the survey in order to sign up for the gift card. Mindy Schneiderman commented that NIU had a raffle and there was a link at the end of the survey the students were taken to a separate form to enter the raffle. Every week NIU randomly selected 10 people to get the incentive (Starbucks gift cards); students had to pick up the physical gift card from a staff members office.

Mindy Schneiderman asked the group if it wanted to make a recommendation for a response rate, such as 10%. Megan Greeson commented that she did not see any institution in her research able to attain a 10% rate. Julia Howland commented that she didn't think that a 10% goal was useful if there is not a consequence for not having it. The Task Force decided that including a response rate was not needed.

Chairperson Ostro asked for comments and questions under the Diversity-Specific section of the Implementation Plan. Mindy Schneiderman pointed out that in the second bullet under this recommendation that this focus would leave out many students and would skew the data. Madeleine Behr commented that there were six groups most commonly affected by sexual assault and thought it would be beneficial to name these disproportionately affected groups. Mindy Schneiderman commented that NIU has very low response rate from men, focusing on the other groups might in fact lower the response rate from men. Natalie Bennett said that oversampling from the groups disproportionately affected by sexual assault because these are smaller groups and harder to reach an appropriate response rate. Megan Greeson drafted some compromise language that took into account both concerns.

C. 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. Chairperson Ostro called for public comment and no one requested to speak.

D. Base Survey Discussion

Ashley Lewis explained the process for the creation of the base survey in the Survey Building Working Group. Members of the Working Group were given an opportunity to provide context of the base survey to the rest of the Task Force. Nabilah Talib stated that the group focused a lot on the tone of the survey and making sure that the survey did not contain victim-blaming language. Megan Greeson asked about the time period that the survey is asking about. Ashley responded that the group had not come to a conclusion on this, but the draft was put together under the assumption that this survey covers one academic year. Ashley then gave a brief overview of the sections and high-level content in the base survey.

E. Timeline For Task Force Completion





Ashley Lewis explained that the Task Force needs to have its base survey and implementation plan wrapped up by July 31, 2023, to align with legislative language under consideration by the General Assembly. She explained that a draft of the Task Force Report would be sent out before the next Task Force meeting on June 7th. The June 7th Task Force meeting will be spent discussing the base survey and draft Task Force Report. During the week of June 12th, the draft Task Force Report will be posted for public comment. The final Task Force meeting will be held on July 12, 2023.

