

Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual Violence Prevention, Reporting and Response

Briefing Paper

The Background:

The World Health Organization and the United Nations both substantiate violence against women and girls, in particular, sexual violence, as major public health concerns and among the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. It is well established that violence knows no social, economic or national boundaries. The White House Council on Women and Girls brought national awareness to the fact that sexual violence is a problem of concern at institutions of higher education across the country. Sexual violence causes immense harm to its victims and remarkable secondary harm to many others, and the community at large. Sexual violence is understood here to include the crimes of sexual violence in heterosexual and same sex partnerships, sexual harassment and stalking.

Where We Stand and Our Charge:

A key component of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) vision is to be the best place to work and learn for our faculty, staff and students. One of our core values is to be a caring, compassionate, and collegial community characterized by mutual respect and safety. The problem of sexual violence is both of grave concern and a call to action for us.

In commitment to our vision and values and in response to this call to action, Chancellor Mark Mone has formed The Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual Violence Prevention, Reporting and Response. The Task Force is charged to provide a structure designed to help UWM ensure that we are doing all that we can to prevent and respond effectively to sexual violence. We recognize the importance of this charge in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all members of our campus community.

Specifically, the Task Force is charged to:

- Identify existing barriers, challenges and gaps in the prevention of, reporting of, and response to sexual violence, and will develop recommendations for effectively addressing campus needs in these areas.
- Evaluate existing policies, practices, infrastructure and culture to reduce the incidence of sexual violence, while complying fully with Title IX, Clery Act, Campus SaVE Act, and other relevant federal/state/local/UWS and UWM regulations.

- Foster both internal and external partnerships that create a coordinated response to sexual violence; promote a climate of safety and awareness; and monitor incidents of sexual violence for students, faculty, and staff.
- Explore best practices, make recommendations and propose a plan for the implementation of said recommendations to enhance support and services for victims and survivors; and engage stakeholders in accountability to, and assessment in, recommended areas.