

REPORT ON UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN INSTITUTIONS' ORIENTATION PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION PROVIDED TO STUDENTS ON SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Section 36.11(22)(b), Wisconsin Statutes, requires the Board of Regents to report annually to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature on the methods each UW System institution used to disseminate information to students on sexual assault and sexual harassment. The law requires UW System institutions to incorporate into their new student orientation programs oral and written information on sexual assault and sexual harassment, including information on:

- sexual assault by acquaintances of the victims
- the legal definitions and penalties for sexual assault, sexual exploitation by a therapist, and sexual harassment
- generally available national, state, and campus statistics on sexual assault
- the rights of victims
- protective behaviors including methods of recognizing and avoiding sexual assault and sexual harassment.

In addition, each institution must annually supply to all enrolled students printed material that includes information on all of the above topics.

This law was enacted in April, 1990; this is the ninth report to be compiled for the legislature since its enactment.

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of the resolution authorizing the report for the 1998 calendar year to be forwarded to the legislature.

DISCUSSION

Each UW institution provided to the UW System Office of Academic Affairs descriptions of their 1998 student orientation programs that addressed issues of sexual assault and sexual harassment. In addition, they submitted copies of the sexual assault and sexual harassment educational material disseminated to students. All institutions have complied with the statutory requirements of s.36.11(22)(b), Wisconsin Statutes.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

UW System Sexual Harassment Policy Statement and Implementation (Regent Policy 81-2).

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ORIENTATION PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION PROVIDED
TO STUDENTS ON SEXUAL ASSAULT
AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

All UW System institutions have complied with the requirements established in s.36.11(22)(b), Wisconsin Statutes. Specifically, all institutions have conducted orientation programs for newly entering students and provided them with oral and written information on sexual assault and sexual harassment, including information on:

- sexual assault by acquaintances of the victims
- the legal definitions and penalties for sexual assault, sexual exploitation by a therapist, and sexual harassment
- generally available national, state, and campus statistics on sexual assault
- the rights of victims
- protective behaviors including methods of recognizing and avoiding sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Each institution has also provided all enrolled students with printed material that includes information on these topics.

The following summaries describe the material provided by each institution in their efforts to comply with s.36.11(22)(b), Wisconsin Statutes for 1998. Over the past several years, UW institutions have established reliable, accurate material; have integrated discussion of the issues into new student orientation; and have developed many educational programs addressing the topic. Several institutions now make the educational material available on-line at their institutional home page.

UW-Eau Claire

- All new and continuing students were provided “Your Right to Know,” a brochure which contained required information on sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- New student orientation programs included a presentation on sexual assault and sexual harassment followed by a discussion with institutional staff of issues raised by the presentation.
- A new brochure titled “What you need to know about sexual assault” was used during programs held in the residence halls during the fall semester as well as in various other campus programs.

UW-Green Bay

- All students were provided the UW-Green Bay timetable and all new students also received the Student Resource Handbook. Both publications contained required material on sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- New student orientation included a skit on sexual assault and sexual harassment, followed by a discussion of the issues raised in the program.

UW-Green Bay (continued)

- Additional materials including posters, videos and newsletters dealing with sexual assault and harassment issues were available to all UW-Green Bay students.
- A new brochure, “Sexual Harassment: What should you do if it happens to you?” was sent to all students.
- UW-Green Bay maintains three websites with information, resources and policies regarding sexual assault: The Sexual Assault home page, the Office of Public Safety’s home page, and Office of the Dean of Students home page.
- UW-Green Bay again sponsored Sexual Assault Awareness Week for the entire institutional community.
- Additional programming was available throughout the year including educational programs sponsored by Resident Assistants, student life programming and campus workshops focusing on sexual assault and harassment prevention. The Dean of Students used campus-wide email to notify students of self-defense classes.
- A new “Safewalk” program was instituted to provide escorts on campus from 8 p.m. to midnight for anyone feeling unsafe.

UW-La Crosse

- UW-La Crosse’s student handbook, “Eagle Eye” includes all required sexual assault and harassment information. It is available in an electronic format on the institution’s homepage. All students were informed of the document’s location and encouraged to view the document. Mousepads promoting “Eagle Eye” were placed at every station in the campus’ computing laboratories and issued to new students in the residence halls who owned computers.
- New student orientation included a program entitled “Social Intercourse: Be Prepared!” The program utilized a variety of media (video, slides, and drama) to educate individuals on sexual assault issues.

UW-Madison

- All new and continuing students received “Campus Safety” which contained all the required information on sexual assault and harassment as well as information on university and community services and programs that work to curb and respond to sexual violence.
- Summer Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR) Program, included small group discussions of sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- Welcome Week included workshops in relationships and large-scale lectures and performances that addressed issues of sexual assault and harassment.
- Residence Halls, Police and Safety, University Health Services, Women’s Clinic, and Counseling and Consultation Services provided extensive additional programming throughout the year.
- The Office of the Dean of Students published a brochure titled “Sexual Violence and Students: A Collaborative Approach” which was available on the Dean Of Students website as well as distributed widely to students in residence halls, in private housing, and to student organizations. The brochure provides an overview to sexual assault programs and resources.
- In addition to providing workshops on personal safety, Police and Security distributed a quarterly newsletter with safety tips and articles, provided printed material regarding the Safe nighttime transportation program, and distributed metal safety whistles.

UW-Milwaukee

- All students received the schedule of classes for registration, which included a removable pamphlet entitled “Student Alert.” The pamphlet included all required information on sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- Freshman and transfer students received the UWM Student Handbook containing required sexual assault and sexual harassment information.
- “Street Smarts” was distributed and discussed at orientation, and was available to all students in various locations on campus.
- Freshman orientation also included both self-defense presentations by UW-Milwaukee police and a play on date rape followed by group discussion of the topic.
- The Women’s Resource Center provided a wide range of information on issues including sexual assault and sexual harassment education.

UW-Oshkosh

- All students received “Re: Information, Education, Policies - Campus Safety, Substance Abuse Prevention, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Graduation Rate Data” which contained required information on sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- The Student Handbook, also providing the required information, was distributed to students through the residence halls, the union, the Dean of Students Office and the Student Government Association..
- Orientation programs included a presentation to all new freshmen by Ann Burns, a national speaker on acquaintance rape. This was followed by small group discussions on sexual assault and acquaintance rape.
- Campus for Acquaintance Rape Education (CARE), a campus-wide date rape prevention program, provided programs on acquaintance rape in various settings, including classes, residence halls, and student and community organizations. CARE also published a brochure on sexual assault that was distributed at its programs.

UW-Parkside

- All students received “The University of Wisconsin-Parkside FYI” containing required sexual assault and sexual harassment information.
- New student orientation included a skit and slide presentation on sexual assault entitled “Drawing the Shades.” This peer education program included discussions between the participants and the presenters on why this information was being provided and how the issues are related to understanding and avoiding sexual assaults. The Dean of Students Office and the Student Health and Counseling Service published and distributed a resource titled “Surviving Sexual Assault.”
- UW-Parkside has a Surviving Sexual Assault Advocacy Program with 57 students, faculty, and staff who have completed a minimum of seven hours of training on issues of sexual assault. These advocates are trained to work with primary and secondary victims. In addition, they sponsor Sexual Assault Awareness Week during the spring semester.
- Additional educational programs addressing sexual assault were sponsored by residential life, the Dean of Students Office, and student organizations. The topic was also addressed in the UW-Parkside University Seminar Course.

UW-Platteville

- All students received the “Student Handbook and Personal Planner” at the beginning of the fall semester. It contained all required information on sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- Freshman orientation included five skits on safe dating and sexual assault, followed by a discussion on the subject and on UW-Platteville’s approach to addressing sexual assault issues. Each new student received a copy of the brochure “Safe Dating and the College Student.”
- Two peer education groups provided programming throughout the year to students on sexual assaults and collaborated to provide the institution’s sexual assault awareness week.

UW-River Falls

- All required sexual assault and sexual harassment information was provided to all students in the undergraduate and graduate class schedules booklets as well as in the UW-River Falls “Calendar & Student Handbook.”
- New student orientation included an educational program with a guest speaker, Bob Hall, addressing sexual assault followed by small-group discussions in response to the presentation.
The Dean of Students Office distributed a brochure containing the required information to all participants.

UW-Stevens Point

- All students received “Community Rights and Responsibilities,” a complete version of the rules and regulations governing the UW-Stevens Point community including all required information on sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- All new students received “Crossing the Line” which reiterates the issues of the law, victims’ rights, and support services.
- Summer orientation involved several case study exercises that were developed to promote discussion about responsible relationships.
- Many campus groups presented educational programming on sexual assault issues. These included: the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Health and Counseling Centers, Protective Services and peer educators from two departments, Health and Wellness and Alcohol Education. The programs were presented to residence hall students, athletes, students in the Greek system, and to the university community as a whole.
- In addition to sponsoring a Sexual Assault Awareness week, UW-Stevens Point also held an annual Relationships week.

UW-Stout

- Sexual assault and sexual harassment information was provided to students on-line at the institution’s home page.
- Every orientation session included oral presentations on sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- Students were provided a variety of handouts and brochures that addressed sexual assault and sexual harassment in addition to issues such as stopping unwanted sexual attention, assisting victims in surviving sexual assaults, and understanding date rape.
- Students sponsored an event “Take Back the Night.”

UW-Superior

- “Social Issues,” a newsprint publication distributed to all students, provided the required information on sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- New student orientation included a skit on date rape and other sexual assault issues, followed by question-and-answer sessions for students. The “Student Handbook and Class Planner”, containing the required information on sexual assault was distributed at orientation.
- Additional materials were available to students on issues such as preventing sexual assaults, understanding factors that contribute to sexual assaults, and surviving sexual assaults.
- Safety walks across campus are available to all students.
- Safer Sex Week featured a “Safe Sex Party,” and other programs and presentations related to sexual assault.

UW-Whitewater

- "Focus on Contemporary Issues," which included the required information on sexual assault and sexual harassment, was provided on-line to all students. Students were notified via a personal e-mail message that connected the student to the "Focus on Contemporary Issues" web site.
- Additional pamphlets and publications on resources, sexual assault, victims' rights and assault survival were available throughout campus. The UW-Whitewater Campus Police distributed “Sexual Assault Survival,” which contains all the required information on sexual assault, in all residence hall rooms and at the Text Rental Desk in the University Bookstore.
- Printed material regarding sexual assault and harassment was distributed to new freshmen and their parents during summer orientation. University Health and Counseling Service and Campus police infused information on safety and date rape prevention in their presentations and personnel were available throughout each orientation session to respond to questions in formal and informal settings.
- Focused educational programming for new freshmen continued into the fall semester. Issues of assault, date rape, and personal responsibility were addressed through a peer drama/discussion program.
- Throughout the year, sexual assault awareness and prevention programs were available to the entire institutional community. Involvement of academic departments has been encouraged.

UW Colleges

- All new and continuing students received the “Student Rights and Responsibilities” which contained the required information on sexual assault and sexual harassment. Appropriate local inserts were included for each College campus.
- Orientation sessions at each of the Colleges included oral presentations on sexual assault ranging from guest speakers to skits, video tapes, and presentations by members of the student services staff.

UW-Extension

- UW-Extension does not have any resident students. Therefore, no orientation sessions were held for its student-clients. Nevertheless, UW-Extension provided student-clients with written material on sexual assault and sexual harassment as required by state statute.