

COLLEGES

Office of the Chancellor

April 18, 2005

Regent Beth Richlen
Office of the Board of Regents
1860 Van Hise Hall
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Regent Richlen:

I am writing in response to the concern you expressed at the meeting of the Education Committee of the Board of Regents on April 7, 2005 regarding the "University of Wisconsin System Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment 2004 Annual Report." At that meeting, you indicated that the fact that the University of Wisconsin Colleges did not report any sexual assaults suggests that the UW Colleges might not be adequately addressing the issue of sexual assault.

As you are aware, the University of Wisconsin Colleges campuses are primarily non-residential in nature. Further, our students tend not to live in areas off-campus that are primarily devoted to student housing. It is expected, therefore, that the incidence of sexual assaults occurring in and around our campuses that are reported to the UW Colleges would be less than those of residential institutions. I want to assure you, however, that our campus staff work with local law enforcement agencies to obtain data as required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act, including data pertaining to sexual assaults. As our campuses do not have security personnel, we rely upon the data provided by these agencies and would include any sexual assaults reported in the appropriate categories, in addition to any reports received by campus personnel.

The University of Wisconsin Colleges also does not have counseling personnel. However, our staff in the Offices of Student Services are very familiar with local agencies that can provide assistance to the victims of sexual assault. The staff in these offices are very visible on their campuses and know a great many of the student body, thus enhancing the likelihood that students would report any incidents to them. Many of our campuses have also entered into special agreements with a variety of community agencies to ensure that students may receive the prompt and appropriate assistance that they need.

Each of our campuses includes sexual assault programming at all orientation sessions as required by Wis. Stat. Sec. 36.11(22)1. Many campuses ask the two UW Colleges Alcohol and Other Drug Education Prevention Specialists to provide the required information. In addition to providing information about sexual assault and sexual harassment, these individuals also address the relationship between alcohol and sexual assault. At many of our campuses, Sexual Assault Awareness is the topic highlighted for educational programming during the month of April, which is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Activities are co-sponsored with local sexual assault/women's shelters in each of the local communities. Often, a display of "The Clothesline Project" is included, or a speaker is invited to give a presentation. Efforts are made to

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Clothesline Project” is included, or a speaker is invited to give a presentation. Efforts are made to publicize the Sexual Assault 24-hour hotline telephone numbers. At other campuses, the AODE Prevention Specialist worked with RAINN, the Rape/Assault, Incest National Network, to sponsor a “Get Carded Day”. Information cards were distributed to students in addition to the brochures that are regularly available. Sexual assault is also included at these campuses during February Healthy Relationships Month. Speakers from community agencies that deal with domestic violence and sexual assault are also invited to the spring health and wellness fairs. All of the above are in addition to the best practices cited in the UW Colleges’ section of the UW System 2004 Report.

At the institutional level, the University of Wisconsin Colleges has created a new page on its website devoted to Student Health and Safety Information. This page consolidates all of the information required by various legal mandates including those pertaining to sexual assault and sexual harassment. The page is very visible and may be accessed through a variety of links. An electronic mail message is sent to all students in the fall informing them of the availability of this information. The message enables the student to link directly to the webpage. The University of Wisconsin Colleges special Alcohol and Other Drug Education website (www.uwc.edu/aode) also features information about sexual assault in the health and wellness section.

Please be assured that the University of Wisconsin Colleges is concerned about the health and safety of its students, is responsive to reports of sexual assault, and is proactive in assault prevention and education.

If we can provide further information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Margaret Cleek
Interim Chancellor

Gregory P. Lampe
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor

xc: Education Committee, Board of Regents