

# Update on the Recommendations to Improve Sexual Violence Prevention Efforts

## Utah State University



Presentation to the Board of Trustees – October 21, 2016

# Creation of the Sexual Violence Task Force

- Charged with establishing an overarching strategic plan to address and prevent sexual violence.
- Supported by three working groups, which will be focused on:
  - Improving existing policies and processes.
  - Developing prevention, education and training programs.
  - Assessing the campus climate and community attitudes toward sexual violence.



# Sexual Violence Task Force (continued)

- The task force and working groups are staffed with subject matter experts, as well as a diverse mix of representatives from our campus community.



# Implementation of an Online Reporting System and a Centralized Database

- The Maxient online reporting provides the following benefits:
  - A reporting option that is available 24 hours a day and can be utilized where and when the student feels comfortable.
  - A reporting system that is easy for bystanders and witnesses to use to file a report.
  - A centralized database that allows the University to track trends and patterns.



# Online Reporting System and a Centralized Database (continued)

- Students and community members can access the reporting form at:
  - [aaeo.usu.edu](http://aaeo.usu.edu)
  - <http://studentconduct.usu.edu/reporting>
  - [reportingsa.usu.edu](http://reportingsa.usu.edu)
  - [My.usu.edu](http://My.usu.edu)



# New Policies That Will Help Students Make Informed Decisions

- Four new policies.
- Confidentiality and amnesty policy are aimed at encouraging students who have experienced sexual violence to talk to someone and to get the help they need.



# Policy Addressing Confidential Resources and Requests that Complaint Be Kept Confidential

- Policy outlines the types of reporting options available at USU.
- Confidential Resources:
  - Counseling and advocacy based.
  - Reporting/disclosing information to these sources does not trigger University action.
  - Available resources include:
    - Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPs)/USUE Student Counseling Office.
    - SAAVI.



# Confidential Resources and Requests that Complaint Be Kept Confidential (continued)

- Non-confidential resources include:
  - Responsible employees.
  - Title IX officers.
  - Law enforcement.
- Reporting to these individuals triggers the University's duty to respond.



# Confidential Resources and Requests that Complaint Be Kept Confidential (continued)

- Title IX provides students with their reporting options (law enforcement, student discipline, etc.) before proceeding with an investigation.
- If a student decides they does not want to move forward because they do not want their name disclosed, in most cases, USU can honor a student's choice, even if the choice is to not investigate or pursue disciplinary action.
- The confidentiality policy approved today outlines the instances, when the University, depending on the amount and quality of information available, must move forward contrary to a student's wishes.



# Anonymous Reports

- Can be made through online reporting system; information goes to the Title IX Coordinator.
- Information can help track patterns and trends.
- Without the name of the complaining party or the details of the event, the University is severely limited in the action it can take.

