

Date: Feb 04 2014 04:09:26 PM
Sender: Nicholas Dirks, Chancellor
To: Students

Subject: Important Message for our Student Community

Dear Students,

How we, as a campus and as individuals, respond to allegations and incidents of sexual assault is critically important for all of us. I want every member of the Berkeley campus community to know that we are committed to assisting students every step of the way, from prevention and educational efforts, to support, counseling and investigation.

Last month, President Obama announced the creation of a White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. I applaud the President for standing up for students and raising our collective awareness around sexual violence on college campuses, and I look forward to learning more from the findings of the task force so that we can become a model for institutional behavior when it comes to handling the challenges and responsibilities arising from such incidents.

As you may know, UC Berkeley is one of four campuses selected by the California State Auditor for an audit of our policies and procedures around sexual harassment and violence on and around campus. We fully support this review and have been working cooperatively with auditors since their efforts began last fall.

Students recently received an email asking for voluntary participation in a survey being conducted by the auditors. Student feedback is very valuable to this process.

Although the auditor's report will not be out until later this year, the campus has already taken a number of steps to strengthen our efforts. We have:

- created a resource page for survivors of sexual harassment and sexual assault. See: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct/sexual-harassment>
- established a Title IX Compliance Advisory Group in which students play a key role in our efforts to evaluate and strengthen our policies and practices
- instituted a new Interim Sexual Misconduct Policy that allows survivors to appeal the resolution of sexual misconduct cases
- hired additional staff for the Title IX office
- worked with the Office of the President on a revised UC system-wide sexual harassment and sexual violence policy that will be launched in March.

We are committed to these efforts and we will benefit greatly from your assistance as we consider what is working, what is not working and changes that will effectively meet the needs of our community.

Nicholas Dirks
Chancellor

If you are a manager who supervises Cal employees without email access, please circulate this information to all.