

RSA 188-H Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey Task Force

MAY 2021

MEMBERS OF THE CLIMATE SURVEY TASK FORCE:

STEPHEN APPLEBY

JANETTE WIGGETT

JASON BISHOP

DIANA FENTON

FRANK WEEKS

GEOFFREY WARD

KARA BUXTON

SOPHIE BAKER

SOPHIA MILLER

AMY CULP

JENNIFER TVETER

SARAH SHANAHAN

KATRINA NUGENT

KATHRYN KIEFER

SHARYN POTTER

JANE STAPLETON

GAVIN HENNING

NORA GALLO

EMMA MANDERVILLE

CHRISTINA WINSHIP

AMY MENDEZ

Update from the Task Force

Greetings from the members of the Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey Task Force. By way of relevant background, during the 2019-2020 legislative session, RSA 188-H, relative to sexual misconduct at institutions of higher education, was passed. This law set forth the requirement for institutions of higher education to adopt various policies as they pertain to sexual misconduct and to conduct a sexual misconduct climate survey.

Of particular note, one section of the new law, RSA 188-H:5, created a task force on sexual misconduct at institutions of higher education. The overall intent of this specific provision is to achieve a base level of consistency in the questions which are asked in the sexual misconduct climate survey and in the way the survey is administered at all New Hampshire institutions of higher education. This will then create ease in the subsequent data analysis to allow for documenting trends across the state.

The members of the Task Force are statutorily mandated and include, amongst others, the Department of Education, which is the lead on the task force, the Attorney General's Office, Department of Health and Human Services, the University System of New Hampshire, the Community College System of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, New Hampshire Campus Consortium Against Sexual and Interpersonal Violence, Every Voice New Hampshire, and numerous student representatives from various New Hampshire colleges.

This diverse membership accounts for many different and unique perspectives to all be at the table to create an appropriate baseline survey on the important issue of sexual assault at institutions of higher education. Additionally, having a high number of students on the taskforce allows for the resulting survey to have a strong student voice—making this task force distinctive in its membership makeup.

As stated previously, the aim of the group is to research best practices in order to develop a base sexual misconduct climate survey. Individual institutions can then modify the base survey to account for the distinguishing factors of their respective campuses. Beyond creating questions for a base survey, the Task Force will also provide related recommendations which pertain to the content, timing, and application of the climate survey.

Currently, the Task Force is actively meeting and anticipates being able to provide the base sexual misconduct climate survey questions by the end of this May.



Institutions of higher education will be expected to begin implementing the Base Climate Survey Questions In the Spring of 2022.

As such, the Task Force anticipates sending this newsletter out on a regular basis to the field to share updates and information as the group continues its work.

Institutions of Higher Education are encouraged to review RSA 188-H in its entirety and the law can be accessed here:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XV/188-H/188-H-mrg.htm>

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

Please contact the Task Force at: RSA188TaskForce@doe.nh.gov