



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

90th Session, 2022-2023

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING THE NEVADACARES ADVOCACY CENTER

Resolution Number: 49

Authored By: Senators Noble and Ngo

Sponsored By: 2022-2023 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, 21 to 25% of women and 6 to 7% of men experience sexual violence while they are attending college;¹

Whereas, only 12% of college student survivors of sexual assault report the assault to police;²

Whereas, only 7% of survivors of incapacitated sexual assault report to the police;³

Whereas, survivors of sexual assault cite a number of reasons for not reporting their assaults, among them being: not wanting others to know, a lack of non hearsay evidence, fear of retaliation from the perpetrator of affiliated institutions, uncertainty as to whether what happened constitutes sexual assault; lack of knowledge about how to report a sexual assault; and fear of being treated poorly by the criminal justice system;⁴

¹ Cantor, D., Fisher, B., Chibnail, S., Harps, S., Townsend, R., Thomas, G., Madden, K. (2019). Report on the AAU Campus Climate Survey on sexual assault and sexual misconduct. Rockville, MD: Westat.

² <https://www.knowyourix.org/issues/statistics/>

³ <https://www.knowyourix.org/issues/statistics/>

⁴ <https://www.knowyourix.org/issues/statistics/>

Whereas, during the State of Nevada’s 81st Legislative Session, Senate Bill 347, commonly referred to as the “Every Voice Bill” was enacted into law. ⁵

Whereas, Senate Bill 347 makes changes for the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) for the handling of sexual violence on campus, intended to combat sexual violence and support the victim-survivors enrolled in all NSHE institutions;

Whereas, Senate Bill 347 directs the Nevada Board of Regents to incorporate and take the following steps:

1. Create the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct at Systems of Higher Education; This task force will appoint researchers employed at one or more institutions within NSHE to develop a climate survey on sexual misconduct; Upon completion of this survey, the task force shall meet to review the results and hold an open meeting to provide recommendations to the Board of Regents on how to address sexual misconduct within NSHE institutions
2. Require any NSHE employee who participates in the grievance process pursuant to Title IX or processes relating to sexual misconduct to complete annual trainings on topics related to trauma-informed response and awareness of sexual misconduct;⁶

Whereas, to date The Board of Regents has only enacted the two aforementioned proposals and provision number 5;⁷

Whereas, according to Senate Bill 347 The Board of Regents may also require an NSHE institution to:

- Enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a local organization that assists victim-survivors involved in sexual misconduct; This MOU may contain provisions that allow the local organization to assist with developing institutional policies, prevention programming and training for the intuition, and access to confidential advocacy services for victim-survivors (Section 19);

⁵ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7996/Text>

⁶ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7996/Text>

⁷ <https://nshe.nevada.edu/2021/09/board-of-regents-appoints-sexual-misconduct-task-force-members/>

- Designate a confidential victim advocate on campus; This designated advocate must not be a Title IX coordinator, a member of campus law enforcement or any other official of the institution who is authorized to initiate disciplinary proceedings; The designated advocate must complete the 20 hours of required training for victim advocates as defined by NRS and receive additional training on the awareness and prevention of campus sexual misconduct, Title IX, and any policy of the school and trauma-informed responses; The advocate is responsible for informing students and employees of options of how to report, counseling, medical, or legal services available on or off campus, the grievance procedure, the role of law enforcement, and available supportive measures (Sections 20 and 21);
- Develop and provide programming on the awareness and prevention of sexual misconduct to all students and employees; Such programming must include education around consent, the role drugs and alcohol may affect the ability of a person to consent, strategies for bystander intervention and strategies for reduction information on options of reporting, information around the school's grievance procedure, the range of sanctions and penalties, and information on if the school has a designated victims advocate (Section 24);
- Accept a request from the complainant who is 18 years of age or older to keep their identity confidential or take no investigative or disciplinary action against the respondent unless there are conflicting state or federal laws that require disclosure, or the institution feels there is a risk that the respondent may commit additional acts of sexual misconduct or violence (Section 24;5)

Whereas, Senate Bill 347 also dictates that a student who experiences sexual misconduct may request a waiver from any requirement to maintain a certain Grade Point Average (GPA), credit enrollment, or other academic or disciplinary requirements for any scholarship, grant, or other academic programs.

Waivers may be granted by a provost, dean, academic advisor or other appropriate staff members.

Students or employees who experience sexual misconduct may be granted a request to take a leave of absence (Section 24.95);⁸

Whereas, Senate Bill 347 took effect July 1 2021;⁹

Whereas, the shared goals of ASUN and NSHE institutions are to safeguard the student body through the fair, responsible, and serious handling of Sexual Assault Reporting;

Whereas, the 89th Senate of ASUN approved and adopted S.R 89-101: A Resolution In Support Of Updating Policy Regarding Campus Sexual Misconduct, which supported the adoption and full implementation of all of the aforementioned statutes of Senate Bill 347 for the protection of Nevada students through the fair, responsible, and serious handling of Sexual Assault Reporting¹⁰;

Whereas, NevadaCARES aspires to end sexual assault, relationship violence, and/or stalking by engaging the UNR campus community in awareness building, prevention education, and transformative action;

Whereas, this is currently accomplished through tabling, distribution of informative stickers, and presentations to different University constituencies;

Whereas, NevadaCARES provides programs and services for all students at the University of Nevada, Reno of all ages and identities;

Whereas, in accordance with S.R 89-101 and the aforementioned sections of Senate Bill 347, ASUN has given its full support to NevadaCARES in their efforts establish a confidential victim advocacy center on campus;

Whereas, the NevadaCARES was subsequently granted a space to establish an on-campus advocacy center in 239F of Edmund J. Cain Hall to allow for the delivery of direct services to students, faculty, and staff;

⁸ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7996/Text>

⁹ <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7996/Overview>

¹⁰ <https://nevadaasun.com/public-laws/>

Whereas, this space shall be known as The NevadaCARES Advocacy Center, and is set to open in the Fall 2022 Semester;

Whereas, in accordance with our ongoing support of this project, the 89th Senate of ASUN allocated \$5,000.00 to fund the The NevadaCARES Advocacy Center;

Whereas, connection to resources is a vital component of healing from a traumatic experience;

Whereas, the student body represents a predominant stakeholder group in this

Whereas, The NevadaCARES Advocacy Center will open in the Fall Semester of 2022;

Be it resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada stands in unwavering support of establishing the NevadaCARES Advocacy Center;

Be it further resolved that, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada directs The NevadaCARES Advocacy Center to serve in the following capacities:

- Offer individual services to assist those on campus through the process of making decisions, accessing support, examining feelings, and exploring the impact and meaning of their experiences related to power-based violence;
- Inform and educate individuals about pertinent campus, state, and federal policies concerning power-based violence;
- Serve as a link to campus-based resources and programs in the community at large, including but not limited to: trauma counseling, tutoring and academic support, support groups, at-home therapeutic resources, mental healthcare, physical healthcare, sexual healthcare and testing, and reproductive healthcare;

Be it further resolved that, the Senate of the Associated Students tasks Campus and Public Relations Director Lara and Campus Wellness Director Carpio-Guerra to support and assist NevadaCARES with their Fall marketing campaign and their launch respectively;

Be it further resolved that, this legislation be sent to the following individuals:

- Boris Carpio-Guerra, Director of Campus Wellness;
- Carlos Lara, Director of Campus and Public Relations;
- Bayla Fitzpatrick, Vice President of the Associated Students;
- Dionne Stanfill, President of the Associated Students;
- Daniel Fred, Director of NevadaCARES;
- Dr. Elizabeth Gunn, NSHE Sexual Misconduct Task Force Chair;
- Brian Sandoval, President of the University of Nevada, Reno;
- Members of the Board of Regents- Cathy Mcadoo, Chair; Amy J. Carvalho, Vice Chair;
- Selena Torres, Assemblymember for District 3;
- Edgar Flores, Assemblymember for District 28;
- Melanie Scheible, Senator for District 9.

Adopted in Senate on July 20th, 2022

Attest:

Wyatt Layland, Senate Secretary

Andrew Thompson, Speaker of the Senate