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Secretary

DATE: August 31, 2020

TO: Institutional representatives for the Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey and the Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct Incident Log and Report

FROM: Barbara Schmertz, Ph.D., Director of Research and Policy Analysis

SUBJECT: Institutional guidelines regarding 2022 Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct Incident Log and Incident Report and the Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey

This memo is directed to the institutional points of contact designated to work with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) regarding the Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct Incident Log and Incident Report and/or the Sexual Assault Campus Climate Survey. Should this point of contact have changed since the last cycle, please notify me of these changes.

Md. Education Article, Section §11-601 requires all higher education institutions in Maryland to provide to MHEC a report on the findings from a sexual assault campus climate survey and a report on institution-level data on incidents of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct. Institutions must submit these reports on or before June 1, 2022. MHEC is required to compile a report aggregating these data to submit to the General Assembly.

The agency has reviewed the new Title IX regulations that went into effect in August and has determined that they do not preclude MHEC from continuing to collect the same data of incidents of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct as MHEC has collected in the past. We are aware that these new regulations do limit and narrow the scope of data your institution might collect and therefore report. Please contact me should you have concerns about the effects these regulations will have on your institutional reporting.

The Guidelines, Incident Report, Incident Log, and Checklist accompanying this memo were developed by MHEC, with input from institutions. Each institution must conduct a sexual assault campus climate survey and submit a narrative report to MHEC by June 1, 2022. MHEC created a model survey in 2015 and is happy to share the survey (in editable form) upon request. In addition, each institution must submit a copy of the Incident Report in the Excel template format provided to MHEC. The Incident Log was created to aid institutions in compiling the data for the Report but should not be submitted to MHEC. Both the Log and the Report should reflect data collected since the end of the last institutional cycle (late spring/early summer 2020).

The materials must be submitted via Google form. This link will be provided to institutions in advance of the June 2022 deadline.

Should you have questions or concerns as you proceed with reviewing the materials, do not hesitate to contact me (barbara.schmertz@maryland.gov). Also reach out as you begin the steps of administering the survey and compiling the incident data if I can be of assistance.

I appreciate your partnership and collaboration in this process.