Clarion University
Spring 2019 Title IX Campus Climate Survey

Executive Summary

Clarion University conducted its second Title IX Campus Climate Survey in the spring semester of 2019. A total of 236 students responded to the survey, an overall response rate of 8%. The Title IX Team reviewed the results during the summer of 2019 and the Title IX Team is holding a meeting with the Student Affairs Advisory Board for a discussion of the results. These findings will also be shared with Student Senate and the Faculty Senate Student Affairs Committee.

General Results

Clarion University takes this data very seriously and is committed to creating a safe campus climate for all members. The results indicate three overall impressions. First, sexual harassment and sexual assault are issues some student respondents have experienced both before and after arriving at Clarion. Second, most student respondents believe the University would administer the formal procedures to fairly address reports of sexual violence. Third, a significant number of students experienced some form of non-violent behavior or harassment from an intimate partner.

General Campus Climate

- 95% of student respondents feel safe at Clarion University (click here for more information)
- Most respondents feel that faculty and staff are genuinely concerned about their welfare.
- 76% of respondents think it is easy to find people on campus who understand them.
- Respondents most commonly considered leaving because they struggled with mental health challenges.

Sexual Violence Prevention Training and Student Knowledge

- 61% of first year respondents received information on training. The number of respondents receiving training in subsequent years declined.
- Most respondents who received training thought it was useful in increasing their overall knowledge.
- Most respondents received information or training at new student orientation.

Knowledge and Perceptions of Campus Reporting Options

- 81% of respondents are confident the University would administer the formal procedures to fairly address reports of sexual violence, however only 59% understand those procedures.
- 86% of respondents believe the University would take reports seriously and 81% said the school would take steps to protect the reporting party.
- 62% of respondents believe that the accused or their friends would retaliate against the person making the report and 51% believe the educational achievement of the student who made the report would suffer.
Experiences with Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

- 8% of respondents experienced at least one incident of sexual misconduct at least one time since the beginning of the (2018-19) school year. Respondents most commonly report that the incidents occurred in an off-campus residence.
- 50% of respondents had someone make sexist remarks or jokes in their presence.
- 12% of respondents were sent offensive sexual content via email, text or social media.

Experience with Intimate Partner Violence & Stalking and Harassment

- 33% of respondents experienced some form of non-violent behavior or harassment from an intimate partner – most commonly that manifested itself in the form of name-calling, criticism or accusing them of paying too much attention to someone else.
- 6% of respondents experienced some form of violent behavior from an intimate partner.
- 24% of respondents felt frightened, concerned, angered, or annoyed by a stalking or harassing behavior.

Next Steps

While Clarion University continually seeks to update and improve its programming on these topics and its response to reports, these results point to the following specific actions.

First, Clarion University will work on developing more robust and intentional programming and educational opportunities for our non-freshmen students. Both the 2017 and 2019 surveys show that our continuing students’ participation in training have dropped off after that first year. We will be using additional online refresher modules for continuing students as well as researching the possibility of implementing some new apps that will be available to students. We hope to expand the use of social media platforms to raise the profile of these discussions and offer more consistent messaging to normalize these discussions.

Second, we must provide more detailed explanations of the procedures students would go through after reporting an incident. While it is clear the students understand how to report an issue, their knowledge of the process that follows is limited. The team will also be looking for ways to expand students’ understanding of the information in the Annual Security Report and having Student Conduct & Community Development partner with RSOs and RUOs to promote the student process.

Third, we need to help students and parents understand that the most commonly reported incidents of sexual misconduct are occurring in off-campus residence. We believe there is an opportunity to continue to educate our off-campus students by tapping into key groups such as Greeks, Athletes, Orientation Leaders and other visible student leaders. Additionally, we will work with the Residence Life staff to explain this to students as they go through the housing application process so they can make informed decisions about the kind of environment they choose to live in after their sophomore year.

Fourth, efforts must continue to work on the culture of healthy relationships. In the Fall of 2019, the Center for Wellness partnered with faculty in the rehabilitation sciences area to launch a peer educator model. The purpose of this program is to enlist the aid of trained students who are willing to engage in tough conversations about a variety of issues that are presenting concerns for our students. Healthy relationships is one of those discussions and we look forward to seeing this program florist as we train and engage more students and staff.
If you have any questions, please contact:

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For further information regarding our Title IX Prevention and Education measures, please click here.