March 25, 2014

To the USC Community,

Matters relating to sexual assault and misconduct in the military, business and college campuses have received national attention. It is vitally important that members of the USC community are knowledgeable about these issues and know where to find resources to help themselves or assist others. Therefore, student leaders representing a number of student organizations have been working in collaboration with USC administrators in the Department of Public Safety, the Title IX Coordinator, and Center for Women and Men to increase campus awareness and access to services that support survivors of sexual assault. Meetings have been held since October 2013 to evaluate existing procedures, clarify policies, and propose new initiatives.

As a result of these conversations, the following initiatives were broadened and highlighted here:

- **The Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) website** ([https://sarc.usc.edu/](https://sarc.usc.edu/)). Launched in the fall of 2013, the SARC website is a comprehensive resource for members of the community seeking assistance on matters related to sexual misconduct, assault, and resources. Students can find all of the information they need linked from a single website.

- **Process clarification.** Educational efforts are under development to better inform students about the adjudication process for sexual misconduct cases. Multiple educational tools – online, web-based, and brochures – have been employed, and will continue to be revised, to clarify matters of privacy and anonymity.

- **Title IX Investigator.** In September 2013 a highly trained sexual assault investigator was hired to have primary responsibility for investigating cases, following through with survivors, and continuously improving performance of the process. The Title IX Investigator reports to the university Title IX Coordinator.

- **Resident Assistant training.** Resident Assistant training will be broadened to include additional modules related to sexual misconduct. At times, Resident Assistants are approached by students seeking advice on matters related to sexual misconduct. The additional training will emphasize the importance of this role and provide Resident Assistants with the tools they need to assist survivors.

- **Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officer training.** DPS has implemented a checklist for officers responding to cases of sexual misconduct. The checklist is guided by best practices and consultation from experts at the Santa Monica Rape Treatment Center.

- **Clery Act reporting.** DPS added a specially-trained coordinator to enhance the training of Campus Security Authorities in reporting sexual assault and other crimes for USC’s Annual Security Report.
• **SAFER Campus Alliance.** The SAFER Campus Alliance is a leadership program to prepare students to become peer educators in promotion of a respectful community. Students can learn more about this program by visiting the Center for Women and Men.

• **Relocation of the Center for Women and Men.** The Center for Women and Men will have a brand new home in the fall of 2014. A space more than double the size of the current space is being outfitted in the Engemann Student Health Center. The size and location will better accommodate privacy needs and increase access to medical services.

• **Medical Amnesty/Good Samaritan Policy.** We are making clear via written policy that, “Those who report sexual misconduct or participate as witnesses in sexual misconduct investigations, or who seek medical assistance for themselves or another, by contacting a Residential Assistant, calling a Department of Public Safety officer, or calling 911, will not be subject to disciplinary sanctions for their consumption of alcohol and/or other substances. Instead, these students will be directed to the appropriate services, and amnesty for alcohol or substance consumption in violation of university policies will be granted to both the reporting students and the intoxicated student in need of assistance.”

In addition, students are reminded of existing resources available to the USC community:

• **Center for Women & Men,** home of the Sexual Assault Resource Center, offers confidential 24-hour crisis counseling. During business hours, call at (213) 740-4900, and for crisis help after hours call the on-call counselor at (213) 321-3982. In addition to confidential counseling, the Center offers advice about initiating a university investigation, a criminal investigation, or both, and can help a student obtain medical assistance or contact off-campus resources.

• **Engemann Student Health Center** provides medical attention and counseling services for all students. For Student Counseling Services please call (213) 740-7711. On the Health Sciences Campus, please contact the **Eric Cohen Student Health Center** at (323) 442-5631.

• The **Title IX Coordinator, Title IX Investigator, and USC Office of Equity and Diversity** can be reached 24 hours a day at (213) 740-5086 (University Park Campus) and (323) 442-2020 (Health Sciences Campus).

• The **Department of Public Safety** (DPS) at the University Park Campus can be reached at (213) 740-4321 (emergency) or (213) 740-6000 (non-emergency). For the Health Sciences Campus please call (323) 442-1000 (emergency) or (323) 442-1200 (non-emergency).

Ongoing discussions on sexual misconduct will continue with the USC community under the coordination of Jody Shipper in her role as the university’s Title IX Coordinator. She welcomes community-wide involvement in discussions of this important topic.

Student safety is our highest priority, and USC wants all members of our community to have an environment free from sexual assault and misconduct. We desire to enhance communication to achieve this priority. It is through these collaborative efforts with students and administrators that we identify opportunities for improvement.

Ainsley Carry, Vice Provost for Student Affairs