

Contact: Thomas Evans

### **INSTITUTIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICIES**

**Action Requested:** Receive oral reports from the presidents of the universities and the superintendents of the special schools and the consultant, Clifford & Schuster, L.L.P. regarding the review and legal audit and resulting modification of existing institutional student-to-student sexual assault policies which were reviewed by the consultant; and approve the draft student-to-student sexual misconduct policies of the universities and the special schools.

**Executive Summary:** On October 29 2008, the Board approved the “Sexual Misconduct Guiding Principles” relating to student-to-student sexual misconduct as developed by the consultant. The “Sexual Misconduct Guiding Principles” were established to assist the institutions with a comprehensive review of their policies and procedures dealing with sexual assault and related issues and to ensure sexual misconduct policies are consistent with best practices in higher education. The *Guidelines* set forth policy and legal compliance elements which result in proactive campus sexual misconduct policies and create effective sexual assault risk management practices.

The “Sexual Misconduct Guiding Principles” were utilized by the universities and special schools to draft revised student-to-student sexual misconduct policies. The institutions’ draft policies were reviewed by the consultant and recommended changes have been incorporated.

The institutional policy recommendations and revisions for the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and University of Northern Iowa are based on creating a sexual misconduct policy and reporting procedure that establishes strong victim support systems and encourages reporting while balancing the universities’ Title IX and Clery Act mandates. Additionally, the revisions are based on the creation of a student-centered policy that is written for students and clearly understood by students. The revisions attempt to streamline the sexual misconduct policy, student code of conduct and related institutional policies while incorporating essential legal policy requirements.

Drafts of the revised institutional policies will be available at the meeting.