



News Release

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Regents Update Policies on Sexual Assault Investigations

PIERRE, S.D. – As part of its continuing efforts to prevent sexual assault or violence on university campuses and to respond promptly and fairly whenever an incident occurs, the South Dakota Board of Regents this week updated administrative policies to conform with new federal law and rules.

At the federal level, final rules were recently published to implement the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. Policies adopted by the regents Wednesday detail the procedures necessary to investigate and review complaints alleging sexual assaults. Other policy updates respond to training and staffing requirements needed under the federal law.

“The regents have been diligent in making sure that our staff, faculty, and students understand the rights and responsibilities attached to incidences of sexual violence on or off our campus properties,” said Jack Warner, the regents’ executive director and CEO. “Most recently, we have been particularly focused on providing specific and detailed training to each employee and student.”

Beginning in 2013, training was provided to institutional staff members who are charged with conducting investigations under Title IX or the Violence Against Women Act. Last year, training was held for investigators and those who conduct disciplinary procedures. Another round of investigator training is scheduled for this July. The board has also retained an outside firm to review its policies, staffing, and management practices and provide recommendations for future action.