

Take Back The Campus Demands

12/9/14 California Statewide

(UC Berkeley, UC Santa Barbara, San Diego State)

1. All institutions of higher education must meet all federal and state recommendations and standards including mandatory (i.e. with registration holds) consent education.
2. All institutions of higher education must release not just sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking reporting statistics; but full statistical data on investigation, adjudication, and sanction of these cases.
3. We recommend consent education in K-12. College is too late for people to learn about bodily autonomy and respect.

Endorsed by

University of California, Berkeley: Sofie Karasek, Co-founder, End Rape on Campus;
Meghan Warner, Director, ASUC Sexual Assault Commission

University of California, Santa Barbara: Alejandra Melgoza, On-campus Coordinator,
Take Back The Night UCSB

San Diego State University: Jordan Busse, Co-Organizer, Concerned Students of
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Take Back The Campus Demands 12/9/14

Concerned Students of San Diego State University

- 1. SDSU President Elliot Hirshman must answer community concerns about sexism and sexual violence at an open forum at the beginning of the Spring 2015 semester.**
- 2. AS President Jonathan Cole and all other members of DELTA SIGMA PHI and SIGMA PHI EPSILON must step down from AS positions. Marc Hess should step down as IFC President. All members of AS should participate in education about sexism and sexual violence.**
- 3. SDSU Police must stop victim-blaming messaging and racial profiling.**
- 4. SDSU must heed Dr. Huma Ghosh's recommendations for the Women's Resource Center and Director and give continuous and ongoing support, including funding/staffing to programs already underway (e.g. Aztecs for Awareness, Sexual Violence Task Force, Andrea O'Donnell WOA).**
- 5. SDSU must institute Gender/Sexuality Studies class as a part of the General Education graduation requirements.**

- 1. SDSU President Elliot Hirshman must answer community concerns about sexism and sexual violence at an open forum at the beginning of the Spring 2015 semester.**

We demand an open forum where President Elliot Hirshman answers community concerns about sexism and sexual violence at SDSU. President Hirshman's response thus far has been hands-off and out-of-touch. He has made no attempt himself or through an intermediary, as far as we know, to meet with or speak to the survivor-activists who were harassed and intimidated at the Take Back The Night march on 11/21. His only public statement on the matter was a congratulation of the fraternity system of which he and his son are themselves a part. This is unacceptable for someone in his position who claims to be "committed to ending sexual assault" on his campus. We also demand that this open forum should be widely promoted throughout the campus, by emailing every SDSU student, and should be open to family members and alumni, not just current SDSU students. This forum should take place at the beginning of the Spring 2015 semester.

2. AS President Jonathan Cole and all other members of DELTA SIGMA PHI and SIGMA PHI EPSILON must step down from AS positions. Marc Hess should step down as IFC President. All members of AS should participate in education about sexism and sexual violence.

In a previous letter, Concerned Students demanded that fraternities be closed until they can be made safe. This cannot be achieved by only suspending social activities for the remainder of the semester when fraternity activities are already winding down. This process needs to continue and must involve external accountability for fraternities. The two fraternities involved in the sexual harassment of the Take Back The Night marchers, DELTA SIGMA PHI and SIGMA PHI EPSILON, must undergo a rigorous re-accreditation process if they are to be welcomed back.

Studies show that fraternity members are three times more likely to commit rape, and that fraternity membership has a negative impact on male behavior.¹ 10 News quoted SDSU PD in saying that of the 14 sexual assaults reported at SDSU this year, 5 occurred at a fraternity house.² As far as we know, no-one has been arrested or otherwise held accountable for these attacks. Unfortunately, this is not surprising, because fraternities exist to reproduce class, race, and gender privilege and power. In the 20th Century, many all-white/all-male elite institutions were forced to integrate or close. We applaud Wesleyan and Amherst Colleges for demanding the same of fraternities.³

a. Associated Students President Jonathan Cole

SIGMA PHI EPSILON members sexually harassed and intimidated survivor-activists at the Take Back the Night march on 11/21 and have in fact continued to do so online.⁴ Jonathan Cole is a member of the SIGMA PHI EPSILON fraternity and is also the President of Associated Students. It is unacceptable that a member of this fraternity, which has harassed and intimidated students and is under investigation, has a position in which he is supposed to represent the student body. Cole has made no attempt himself or through an intermediary, as far as we know, to meet with or speak to the Take Back The Night marchers (other than in an email that was directed to the entirety of the student body) to talk about his plans to remedy the situation. We feel that due to these events, and his inability to effectively communicate, negotiate and meet with student activists, Cole is not qualified for his position in AS and should step down. The only student population Cole represents and advocates for are white

¹ <http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/09/opinion/foubert-fraternities-rape>

² <http://www.10news.com/news/14-rapes-reported-at-sdsu-this-year-no-arrests-made-11252014>

³ <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/05/07/amherst-bans-membership-underground-fraternities>
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/09/23/wesleyan-university-orders-its-fraternities-become-coeducational>

⁴ After a student activist shared a news story online about SPE's misconduct, a person who identified themselves with SPE said he would "continue to bury people like you": <http://i.imgur.com/mpwGMn9.jpg>

men in fraternities, not the vulnerable student population that has been fighting for representation all semester.

b. Interfraternity Council President Marc Hess

Marc Hess is the president of the Interfraternity Council and as such, has a responsibility not only to fraternity members, but to the same survivor-activists that were harassed and intimidated by multiple fraternities during the Take Back The Night march. Hess has made no attempt himself or through an intermediary, as far as we know, to meet with or speak to the marchers to talk about his plans to remedy the situation. We feel that due to these events, and his inability to effectively communicate, negotiate and meet with student activists, Hess is not qualified for his position and should step down.

c. Associated Students

We believe that members of the two fraternities that harassed Take Back The Night marchers, DELTA SIGMA PHI and SIGMA PHI EPSILON, should suspend their role in Associated Students until the situation is resolved. Members of AS should understand how sexism and historical inequalities have created a culture that stigmatizes sexual assault survivors. College campuses have been at the forefront in struggles against societal inequalities, and with that in mind we believe that all members of AS should participate regularly in education about sexism and sexual violence.

3. SDSU Police must stop victim-blaming messaging and racial profiling.

The SDSU Police Department must stop perpetuating victim-blaming messages and racial profiling. SDSU PD statements, notably those of Capt. Joshua Mays, perpetuate damaging myths about sexual assault: that sexual assault is somehow caused by alcohol or a lack of parental supervision. Alcohol and parties do not cause rape; rapists do. SDSU PD statements contain warnings geared toward potential victims, not warnings to potential rapists.⁵ Additionally, SDSU PD must stop describing suspects in its crime alerts solely by race.⁶ Students of color, especially Black men, are already harassed and intimidated by campus police, and race-only IDs in crime alerts deepen this profiling climate. As anti-rape activists, we have a responsibility also to fight racial profiling, as “protection” of white women from Black men has historically been used as a justification for legal and extralegal violence against Black men, and the reality of the related history of rape of Black women by white men has been silenced.

⁵ “Be aware of your surroundings, avoid dimly lit locations, avoid alcohol consumption to the point of impairment.” SDSU PD crime alert 9/1/14

⁶ “Suspect #4: African American male. No Further Details.” SDSU PD crime alert 6/27/14

Apparently, SDSU PD is incapable of arresting anyone for this year's 14 rapes⁷, but is eager to racially profile and harass Black men on campus. We question SDSU PD's impact on campus safety, and find its flaws to be part of a pattern endemic to policing, from SDPD's history of sexual violence and harassment⁸, to the origins of the "Slutwalk" movement in reaction to a police officer's comment that female college students should "avoid dressing like sluts" to avoid being victimized⁹, to the epidemic of police killings of people of color rightly outraging the entire country.

4. SDSU must heed Dr. Huma Ghosh's recommendations for the Women's Resource Center and Director and give continuous and ongoing support to programs underway.

a. Women's Resource Center/Director

We request a progress report on the development of the alleged Women's Center that is to be opened sometime next year. We believe that Dr. Huma Ghosh's recommendations for the Center and Director should be heeded. We believe that the Women's Center should not be under the Department of Student Life and Leadership, as this department is geared towards social activities. This Center needs to function first and foremost as a Rape Crisis and Resource Center, not a social space. Because of its level of importance and need for particular standing, the Women's Resource Center should be its own Department under Student Affairs (like Counseling & Psychological Services, EOP/Ethnic Affairs, Intercultural Relations, Student Life & Leadership, Student Rights & Responsibilities, etc.). The director of this Center needs to have extensive experience in victim advocacy and should be supported with the amount of staff they believe necessary to run the Center so that they do not become overwhelmed in their duties to survivors. The Center should not depend on volunteer labor. Anyone added to this important work who is not already remunerated via AS/SDSU should be remunerated for their valuable labor.

b. Student-initiated programs and Sexual Violence Task Force

SDSU must fully support the "Take Back the Night Week." Students from WOA requested that this receive funding at the beginning of the semester through Student Success Fee Proposals and it was denied. We would like to point out that the College of Engineering received \$121,096 in funding this semester and the College of Arts and Letters (to which Women's Studies belongs) only received \$5,000. This kind of proposed programming will help educate students and provide empowering support for victims. SDSU must fully fund and staff the Sexual Violence Task Force and related programs. These programs should not depend on

⁷ <http://www.10news.com/news/14-rapes-reported-at-sdsu-this-year-no-arrests-made-11252014>

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<http://www.10news.com/news/investigations/investigation-of-san-diego-police-culture-reveals-sexual-posters-promotions-lawsuits-02102014>

⁹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13739876>

volunteer labor. Anyone added to this important work who is not already remunerated via AS/SDSU should be remunerated for their valuable labor.

5. SDSU must institute Gender/Sexuality Studies class as a part of the General Education graduation requirements.

We recognize that educating and suspending fraternity social activities will not end the culture of normalized sexual assault on this campus. We demand that SDSU institute Gender/Sexuality Studies classes as a part of the General Education graduation requirements. CSULA has now instituted an Ethnic Studies requirement for students and we commend them for this step towards a well-rounded and equality-oriented college education. The histories of oppressed populations, such as those covered in Women's Studies, are missing from core GE classes and are often only available to students later in their college career as a "cultural competency requirement." This type of education needs to start early and be ongoing.