What is the University doing in response to recent reports of sexual violence?

While these are private (and in some circumstances, confidential) matters about which the University cannot publicly disclose all of the actions it is taking, several officials and departments are in close, ongoing collaboration to review and respond to reports.

All reports received by the UCPD are evaluated for potential crimes and whether there is enough information to proceed with a criminal investigation. Common reasons that investigations cannot be completed are receipt of an anonymous report with very limited information, or non-participation during the investigation phase by reporting parties. Submit a report to UCPD or call 805-893-3446.

Similarly, all reports received by the Title IX Office are evaluated independently for potential policy violations and to determine whether there is enough information to proceed with an administrative investigation. Investigations are not always possible for similar reasons as stated above. Submit a report to the Title IX & Sexual Harassment Policy Compliance Office or call 805-893-2701.

What is the University doing to prevent violence and support survivors?

The University is engaged in, and remains committed to, ongoing violence prevention education strategies, including an online module for incoming undergraduate students, in-person training for incoming undergraduate students, annual training for University employees (including TAs), and a wide variety of prevention education programs. For several years, fraternities and sororities have been required to participate in annual training with CARE, and their members are some of the most informed about bystander intervention as well as reporting and support resources. This year, Students Against Sexual Assault (SASA), CARE, the Office of Student Life, and Recreation are collaborating to launch a new violence prevention education program for campus organization leaders, including fraternities and sororities, as well as sport clubs.

All those affected by interpersonal violence and sexual violence can utilize CARE to receive confidential support and personal referrals to critical community resources. CARE's state-certified advocates are here to help those impacted (including friends of survivors) navigate options, receive support, connect with resources on-campus or within the community, and maintain a point of contact throughout the whole process. CARE does not practice appointment limits and understands that each survivor has unique needs. CARE's 24-hour advocacy line is 805-893-4613.
What is the role of social media in recent reports?
Recent social media conversations have perpetuated misinformation and, in a few cases, contradicted the wishes survivors expressed to the University.

We do want to hear your concerns, we do want to receive your feedback, and most of all, we do want to receive your reports of misconduct you have experienced or witnessed so that we can hold individuals and organizations accountable. We wish to clarify that discussions on social media are not in line with actual information received by the University.

Please consider that:
1. The University cannot act upon reports that contain little or no information. (Importantly, we believe it is the right of the survivor to choose not to report or participate in an investigation.)
2. Acting upon rumors without direct knowledge of an incident can greatly exacerbate harm to our community. We hope it is survivors’ and witnesses’ voices that can be amplified.

How will the University hold fraternities accountable for sexual violence that occurred/occurs on their property or at their events?
In general, when an individual and/or organization is accused of misconduct and a report is received, the report is reviewed by the Title IX Office to determine whether there is a potential policy violation and, if so, to determine whether an investigation is appropriate. During an investigation, parties and witnesses are interviewed, and evidence is gathered, to determine whether or not a policy violation occurred. The procedures are described in detail, including the standard of evidence, in the UCSB Local Procedures for Reported Student Violations of the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.

The University is legally obligated to provide individuals and organizations facing potential sanctions with due process as outlined in the procedures linked above.

If an individual and/or organization is found responsible for violating University Policy, a sanction, up to and including dismissal, is imposed by the responsible office.

Throughout an investigation, the Title IX Office works closely with:
- The Office of Student Conduct to evaluate whether there is sufficient evidence to place an individual on interim suspension (suspending enrollment until a determination of responsibility has been made).
- The Dean of Students Office to evaluate whether there is sufficient evidence to place an organization on interim suspension (halting organizational activity until a determination of responsibility has been made).
Why hasn’t the University imposed a sanction (or interim suspension) on “XYZ” organization?
The University is bound to its published procedures and can act only on the information it receives through reports, party and witness testimony, and evidence.

In some cases, we observe that public perception is misaligned with the information available to us in investigations and decision-making. If you have information (personal experience, eyewitness testimony, evidence, witness contact information, etc.) that you are concerned the University might not be considering in its investigations and/or decision-making, please report it to the UCPD and/or Title IX Office.

Is a Timely Warning distributed for every crime (including sexual violence) in Isla Vista?
No. Timely Warnings are a federal mandate arising from the Clery Act, a consumer protection law that requires colleges and universities to disclose specific crimes (alleged or proven) in particular locations (on or near campus, but not throughout all of Isla Vista). The University has to determine its responsibility to make a Timely Warning on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to Timely Warnings, the Clery Act also requires the University to publish an Annual Security Report and Daily Crime Logs and Maps, which are useful resources for community members.

It is important to keep in mind that the threshold of federally-mandated Timely Warnings is very different from the threshold for criminal prosecution or a University investigation. Timely Warnings may be issued in cases of an anonymous report or where there is insufficient information to proceed with an investigation. Conversely, there are incidents that are reported and investigated that do not result in a Timely Warning because of their details or location.

Why doesn’t the University share all of the information that it receives about reports of sexual violence?
The University does not share all the information it receives about reports of sexual violence for a variety of reasons, including:

- Explicit requests by survivors,
- Privacy laws,
- Desire not to interfere with ongoing legal and/or administrative investigations,
- Lack of non-confidential reporting to the University,
- Incomplete information received by the University,
- Due process requirements legally afforded to respondents.