Sexual and Relationship Violence Prevention Sub-Committee Meeting

March 8, 2013

Present: Joanne DiPlacido, Carolyn Fallahi, Sandy Matthews

Absent/Excused: Bobbie Koplowitz, Jason Sikorski, Jacqueline Cobbina-Boivin, Meg Levvis, Jackie Hennessey

We drafted a Stalking Policy for the committee to review.

**Central Connecticut State University**

**Stalking Policy**

**Statement of Purpose**

Central Connecticut State University is determined to provide a campus environment free of violence for all members of the campus community. For this reason, Central Connecticut State University does not tolerate stalking, and will pursue the perpetrators of such acts to the fullest extent possible. Central Connecticut State University is also committed to supporting victims of stalking through the appropriate provision of safety and support services. This policy applies to all students of Central Connecticut State University community. Stalking incidents are occurring at an alarming rate on the nation’s college campuses. It is a crime that happens to men and women of all races/ethnicities, religions, ages, abilities, sexual orientations, and sexual identity. It is a crime that can affect every aspect of a victim’s life. Stalking often begins with phone calls, emails, social networking posts and/or letters, and can sometimes escalate to violence.

There are strong connections between stalking and sexual violence. Some sex offenders monitor or follow their victims prior to an assault, and others repeatedly contact their victims after an assault has taken place (All statistics taken from *Stalking Victimization in the United States,* National Crime Victimization Survey, Bureau of Justice Statistics, January, 2009).

• **3.4 million Americans are stalked each year.**

• Approximately 1 in 4 stalking victims report some form of cyber stalking such as being harassed through email (83%) or instant messaging (35%).

• 66% of stalking victims receive unwanted phone calls and messages from their stalkers.

• 7.8% of stalking victims experience electronic monitoring. Stalkers use technology such as computer spyware, video/digital cameras, listening devices, and GPS to stalk their victims.

• Nearly one-third (30.4%) of victims fear being physically harmed, but others fear that their stalker will harm or kidnap their child (12.9%), another family member (12.2%), or their current partner (6.0%). 6.3% of victims worry that the stalking will cause them to lose their job.

Stalking statistics at Central from Joanne and Krystal’s study.

Stalking is a crime in Connecticut and is subject to criminal prosecution. Students perpetrating such acts of violence will be subject to disciplinary action through the Central Connecticut State University’s Office of Student Conduct. This can include expulsion from Central Connecticut State University and/or criminal prosecution simultaneously.

**Policy Jurisdiction**

This protocol applies equally to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus at Central Connecticut State University.

**Definition of Stalking**

Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear. **Course of conduct** is defined as “a pattern of actions composed of more than one act over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of conduct.”

**Stalking Behaviors**

Stalking includes any behaviors or activities occurring on more than one occasion that collectively instill fear in a victim, and/or threaten her or his safety, mental health, or physical health. Such behaviors and activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

• Non-consensual communication, including face-to-face communication, telephone calls, voice

Messages, e-mails, written letters, gifts, or any other communications that are undesired and place another person in fear.

• Use of online, electronic, or digital technologies, including:

-- Posting of pictures or information in chat rooms or on Web sites

-- Sending unwanted/unsolicited email or talk requests

-- Posting private or public messages on Internet sites, social networking sites, and/or school bulletin boards

-- Installing spyware on a victim’s computer

-- Using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to monitor a victim

• Pursuing, following, waiting, or showing up uninvited at or near a residence, workplace, classroom, or other places frequented by the victim

• Surveillance or other types of observation, including staring or “peeping” or voyeurism

• Trespassing

• Vandalism

• Non-consensual touching

• Direct verbal or physical threats

• Gathering information about an individual from friends, family, and/or co-workers

• Threats to harm self or others

• Defamation – lying to others about the victim

**Reporting Stalking**

Central Connecticut State University encourages reporting of all incidents of stalking to law enforcement authorities, and respects that whether or not to report to the police is a decision that the victim needs to make. Advocates (see list below) are available to inform victims of the reporting procedures and offer appropriate referrals. Victims of stalking choosing to pursue the reporting process have the right to assistance or consultation of an advocate (*Public Act Number 12-114 (Domestic Violence that now includes a more broad definition of stalking*). Central Connecticut State University offers services to victims even if they choose not to report the incidents. The Office of Equity and Diversity, The Counseling and Wellness Center, and the Ruth Boye Women’s Center provides services, advocates, and information for victims in a safe, supportive, and confidential setting. In some circumstances, a victim may wish to seek an order of protection from a court of appropriate jurisdiction against the alleged perpetrator. Victims may also seek restriction of access to Central Connecticut State University by non-students or non-employees in certain circumstances.

**Responsibilities**

**CCSU Police**  The CCSU Police have a responsibility to uphold and enforce the law even if the victim does not want to make a complaint and/or participate in the process.  As a result, once a report is made to the police, they have a duty to investigate the matter to the extent possible.  This does not mean that a victim will be forced to participate in either a police investigation or a criminal prosecution.  In addition, the CCSU Police will notify appropriate campus officials such as Student Affairs, the Human Resources Department and the Office of Diversity and Equity.  The victim is encouraged to let the CCSU police know of any and all restraining or protective orders taken out in different towns or cities.

**Human Resources Department** Human Resources is the department responsible for carrying out investigations regarding allegations of employee misconduct that violate University and/or State policy and make recommendations for appropriate administrative action.  If required, the accuser and the accused will be afforded due process rights.

**Office of Diversity and Equity** One of the roles of the Chief Diversity Officer is to investigate complaints of discrimination and sexual misconduct when these complaints are brought to the attention of University officials.  The Chief Diversity Officer serves as the Title IX coordinator.  If the person accused is a student, the incident will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct that has the responsibility for administering the Student Code of Conduct.

**The Counseling and Wellness Center** One of the roles of the Counseling and Wellness Center is to support the victim and facilitate referrals to appropriate agencies and/or offices on campus.

**The Ruth Boye Women’s Center** One of the roles of the Ruth Boye Women’s Center is to the support the victim and facilitates referrals to appropriate agencies and/or offices on campus.

**Residence Life** One of the roles of Residence Life is to assist students with room accommodations.

**Student Affairs** Student Affairs is responsible for the administration of the non-academic misconduct portion of the Student Code of Conduct as detailed in the Student Handbook.  This responsibility includes the investigation of allegations of student misconduct that violates University policy, and taking appropriate administrative action.  If required, the accuser and the accused will be afforded due process rights.

In certain instances, Central Connecticut State University may need to report an incident to law enforcement authorities. Such circumstances include any incidents that warrant the undertaking of additional safety and security measures for the protection of the victim and the campus community or other situations in which there is clear and imminent danger, and when a weapon may be involved. However, it is crucial in these circumstances to consult with supervisory staff and/or the Office of Equity and Diversity, since reporting may compromise the safety of the victim.

*This policy was made by the resources of The Stalking Resource Center, a program of the National Center for Victims of Crime, established in 2000, with support from the Office on Violence Against Women at the United State Department of Justice.*