Survivor’s Bill of Rights and
Joint Commitments Related to Sexual Violence and Sexual Assault

Survivor’s Bill of Rights

Survivors of sexual violence and sexual assault have the right to:

1) Have disclosures of sexual and domestic violence treated seriously.

2) Have cases of sexual and domestic violence treated with appropriately severe sanctions. Have the University commit to investigate all allegations of sexual and domestic violence and to respond with actions that are commensurate with the findings; and where there is a finding of a severe violation, to have the university respond with a correspondingly severe action.

3) Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or incident, confidentially, anonymously or otherwise, and participate in the investigative, conduct, and/or criminal justice process free from any pressure or influence from university officials.

4) Interact with trained and competent university officials responsible for the investigation and adjudication process, health care, and/or counseling.

5) Transparent, prompt, and fair processes, including reporting, receiving accommodations, and the investigation and adjudication process. Have the university commit to balancing transparency with the confidentiality afforded to students in Title IX and Student Conduct processes.

6) Be treated with dignity and to be guaranteed access to courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services from college officials at no cost.

7) Be free from any suggestion that the victim/survivor was at fault when these crimes and violations were committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such a crime.

8) Describe the incident to as few individuals as practicable and not to be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident.

9) Be free from retaliation by the university, the accused, and/or their friends, family and acquaintances.

10) Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or conduct process of the university.

11) To have this Survivors Bill of Rights officially recognized by UCR and posted and publicized appropriately.
Student and University Joint Commitments Related to Sexual Violence and Sexual Assault

1) Implement a student initiated/student-led Peer to Peer education organization that will focus on a comprehensive education, including but not limited to consent, bystander intervention, and language. Involve a student presence and opinion in any and all sexual assault, sexual violence, consent, bystander intervention, and/or sex and sexuality workshops and events targeted toward students.

Collaboratively create a student-initiated, student-led Peer to Peer Education program focused on sexual assault and sexual violence, with information on engaging in healthy interactions and fostering a culture of consent and communication on campus.

Support a Peer to Peer program through CARE in the long term and determine when a transition to CARE might occur once a permanent CARE Advocate is appointed. Engage students in shaping and implementing the CARE program.

2) Recommend that the Academic Senate appoint a student to serve on the committee charged with reviewing the Gender Studies proposal.

3) Update any old policies, with a bottom-up approach, to include clear consequences for perpetrators and clear definitions of consent and sexual violence. Involve students in review and revision of sexual violence policies through the appointment of students to UCR's VAWA Task Force and Coordinated Community Response Team.

4) Have consistent and required language and response training for faculty, staff and student leaders. Include conversations about how power dynamics play into consent and the clear consequences for perpetrators. Actively engage students in the development of trainings.

5) Encourage participation by survivors in conversations regarding decisions, campaigns or events run by administration on the topic of sexual assault and sexual violence. Encourage participation by survivors in sexual violence campaigns and events.

6) Enhance communication with the student body and with students sitting on the UC Task Force for Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence Prevention.

Establish a sexual assault/sexual violence listserv that consists of all interested students and student groups and communicates robust non-confidential updates of such things as proposed policy introductions or revisions, program initiatives, proposed legislation, and key activities and decisions of the SVSA Task Force.

Provide regular updates regarding active cases and outcomes when cases are resolved in collaboration with students.

Establish a formal student advisory group to include student leaders from the Survivor Bills of Rights advocacy group, ASUCR’s Chancellor’s Advisory Committee, the It’s On Us Advisory Committee, and the systemwide sexual violence Task Force work group.

7) Have online training on sexual violence prevention on a consistent basis. Identify and create online training on sexual violence in meaningful collaboration with students.

8) Engage UCPD and students in discussions about training received and secure feedback on the adequacy of training. Ensure that UCPD responders are properly and regularly trained, and that they follow up with each case appropriately.

9) Ensure that there are sufficient staff to handle any increase in reports.
10) Update the UCR website and UCPD website so that statistics are not misleading. Review statistics on website with students and adjust as appropriate.

11) Include the LGBT community in the conversations about sexual violence. Ensure that there is progress toward providing gender neutral bathrooms and other gender non-conforming spaces. Include gender neutral restrooms in all new buildings and engage both Architects and Engineers and Physical Plant in accommodating gender non-conforming students wherever possible.

12) Engage students with disabilities in sexual violence conversations.

13) Ensure that counselors are trained on how to properly respond. Review training with students and modify as appropriate—with decisions as to what qualifies as “appropriate” to be made with student input.

14) Publicize all changes and all important information about different options for survivors to the student body in accessible and clear ways. Engage students in review and revision of communications and marketing focused on options for reporting and assistance for survivors.

15) Have action plans for each existing initiative, and any initiative that may be adopted in the future. Include students in development of these plans.

   Recognize that the Survivor’s Bill of Rights is a living document. Seriously engage in discussions including administration and students to address new needs and concerns that may emerge in the future.

16) Be accountable for actively working on joint commitments in an expeditious manner and with complete transparency.