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Office of the President

TO: SMU Board of Trustees

FROM: R. Gerald Turner, President 

DATE: September 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Chief Executive Officer Reporting Requirements under Tex. Educ. Code § 51.253(c)

Under the Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 51.253(c), the institution's Chief Executive Officer is required to submit a data report at least once during each fall or spring semester to the institution's governing body and post on the institution's internet website a report concerning the reports received by employees under the TEC, Section 51.252 concerning "sexual harassment," "sexual assault," "dating violence," or "stalking" as defined in the TEC, Section 51.251, and any disciplinary actions taken under TEC, Section 51.255.

For the purposes of complying with the Chief Executive Officer's reporting requirements under TEC, Section 51.253(c), the attached summary data report¹ includes all of the required reporting information to the SMU Board of Trustees for the time period of August 1, 2020, through July 31, 2021. The summary data is categorized based on the reporting requirements under TEC, Section 51.253(c). The reports received may be applicable in multiple reporting categories, and therefore, the summary data in the categories may not add up to the totals of other categories.

The summary data report is also posted on the Office of Institutional Access and Equity website as per the public reporting requirements under TEC, Section 51.253(c) at <https://www.smu.edu/-/media/Site/IAE/Documents/CEO-Summary-Data-Report>.

Note: Any additional reports received by the Title IX Coordinator that do not meet the required reporting criteria in the Texas Education Code have been omitted for the compliance purposes of this specific report.

¹ When identifiable, duplicate reports were consolidated and counted as one report in the summary data, and confidential employee reporting is noted as a sub-set to the total number of reports received.

CEO Summary Data Report August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021

Texas Education Code, Section 51.252	
Number of reports received under Section 51.252²	40
Number of confidential reports ³ under Section 51.252	3
Number of investigations conducted under Section 51.252	35
Disposition ⁴ of any disciplinary processes for reports under Section 51.252:	
a. Concluded, No Finding of Policy Violation ⁵	0
b. Concluded, with Employee Disciplinary Sanction	0
c. Concluded, with Student Disciplinary Sanction	0
d. SUBTOTAL	0
Number of reports under Section 51.252 for which the institution determined not to initiate a disciplinary process ⁶	40

Texas Education Code, Section 51.255	
Number of reports received that include allegations of an employee's failure to report or who submits a false report to the institution under Section 51.255(a)	0
Any disciplinary action taken, regarding failure to report or false reports to the institution under Section 51.255(c) :	
a. Employee termination	0
b. Institutional intent to termination, in lieu of employee resignation	0

² Reports made by students and all other non-employees (including incidents under 3.5(d)(3)) are excluded from the summary data report. Additionally, if a Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator determines that the type of incident described in a report, as alleged, does not constitute "sexual harassment," "sexual assault," "dating violence," or "stalking" as defined in the TEC, Section 51.251, the report is excluded from the summary data report. It is the responsibility of the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator to assess each report received and determine whether it is properly included in this report, and if so, to correctly identify the type of incident.

³ ""Number of confidential reports" is a sub-set of the total number of reports that were received under Section 51.252, by a confidential employee or office (e.g., Counseling Center or Chaplain's Office).

⁴ "Disposition" means "final result under the institution's disciplinary process" as defined in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) rules for TEC, Section 51.259 [See 19 Texas Administrative Code, Section 3.6(3) (2019)]; therefore, pending disciplinary processes will not be listed until the final result is rendered.

⁵ "No Finding of a Policy Violation" in this section refers to instances where there is no finding of responsibility after a hearing or an appeal process; investigations completed with a preponderance of evidence not met are excluded, because it would not have moved forward into a disciplinary process.

⁶ The institution may have determined "not to initiate a disciplinary process." The reasons for not initiating a discipline process can include, but are not limited to: case dismissal; insufficient information to investigate; confidential employee reporting (no identifiable information); the respondent's identity was unknown or not reported; the respondent was not university-affiliated; the complainant requested the institution not investigate the report; informal resolution was completed; investigation is ongoing; or investigation was completed with a preponderance of evidence not met.