

## **S.R. 1 (2024)**

The Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University's Second Official Resolution  
Supporting the Rights and Needs of Survivors at Santa Clara University

Authored by Lilly Humber '24, Former Student Body President  
Co-Authored by Claire Krebs, Senate Chair  
Co-Authored by Tay Grett, Senator At-Large for Health and Wellness  
Co-Authored by Mercedes Prats, Senator At-Large for Student Safety

### **ADDRESSED TO:**

Julie Sullivan, University President  
Kelly Douglass, General Council  
Jeanne Rosenberger, Vice Provost for Student Life  
Heather Dumas-Dyer, Associate Vice Provost for Student Health, Counseling and Well-Being  
Phil Beltran, Director of Campus Safety  
Brandi Williams, Interim Director of Equal Opportunity and Title IX & Title IX Coordinator  
Adele Cox, EO/Title IX Investigator  
Alayna Brauer, EO/Title IX Investigator  
Summer Reid, EEO/Title IX Program Manager  
Meredith Lierk, Wellness Center Director  
Ashleigh Pezzoni, Assistant Director for Student Survivor Advocacy and Campus Support



**The Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University's Second Official  
Resolution Supporting the Rights and Needs of Survivors at Santa Clara University**  
*August 2024*

To President Julie Sullivan, Kelly Douglass, Heather Dumas-Dyer, Phil Beltran, Jeanne Rosenberger, Brandi Williams, Adele Cox, Alayna Brauer, Summer Reid, Meredith Lierk, and Ashleigh Pezzoni,

We write with updates in regards to ["The Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University Resolution Supporting the Rights and Needs of Survivors at Santa Clara University"](#)<sup>1</sup> from February 2022. This Resolution is a meta-document, intended to encompass a large number of issues within a given area, and to be addressed for as long as it takes for the issues to be resolved. Given the dramatic changes in leadership since this previous Resolution's passing, only one current recipient received the original. Linked above, **the Student Safety Resolution is a series of 12 requests authored by the 2021-2022 Student Body President, Abigail Alvarez, during a time when sexual violence reached alarming numbers at SCU.** As of this resolution's passing date, around half of the initial twelve requests have yet to be fulfilled.

**We are grateful for what has been done to improve the student safety climate.** Notably, the expansion of Cowell and CAPS has made an incredible difference. Most of the requests related to their division have been fulfilled and new potentials are now within reach, given the fully staffed office. Commitment to peer-to-peer support programs has increased with paid VPEs, PHEs, and Safe Walkers, allowing increased Title IX awareness.

**Completing the next phase of this plan is crucial for communication and trauma-informed practice within our existing safety resources.** "The mental health needs of crime victims are often aggravated by the experiences fostered by the legal system,"<sup>2</sup> according to the U.S. Department of Justice, making clarity and efficiency crucial when responding to cases of sexual violence. Given the nuanced and complex regulations of Title IX, it is our responsibility to make sure resources are available in order to create an accessible environment.

**At this crucial time of growth for Santa Clara University, we, the Associated Student Government, in close collaboration with our endorsers and contributors, present an updated list of urgent requests as part of the Second Official Student Safety Resolution.**

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<sup>1</sup> Re document linked: requests which have *not* been accomplished are bolded. Some are not bolded nor accomplished due to their infeasibility and/or changes in information. Therefore, bolded are the items which have *not* been accomplished and *remain priorities*.

<sup>2</sup> [U.S. Department of Justice](#)

## Institutional

- Notify the UCC, UPCs, Student Senate, Staff Senate, and Faculty Senate of the percentage difference in reports brought to the Title IX office between the previous academic year and the current one, regardless of whether the report resulted in an investigation by Week 10 of each Spring Quarter.
- Create an official page, in collaboration with students, within the university website **tracking the status and progress of student safety** as the University responds to these requests, similar to that of the [Diversity Dashboard](#).
- Require that the **Survivor Advocate is notified** using the employee's preferred communication method *every time* Campus Safety responds to a sexual assault case, given that the individual has consented to the release of information.
- Include [RAINN](#)—a national sexual assault hotline—as a part of the Campus Safety and Wellness Center websites. **Most people are not assaulted during standard working hours, and need crucial support in the immediate aftermath.** This includes, but is not limited to, whether to report their assault, information regarding access to medical care, and guidance and support regarding the decision to involve Campus Safety in the case.
- Provide students with a safe, accessible method of transportation to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in the event that a survivor wants to access a medical or forensic exam. Taxi and rideshare app vouchers alone are not sufficient for this purpose, as **riding in an unfamiliar vehicle alone following an assault can further the trauma and anxiety already affecting the survivor and act as a barrier to accessing care.** Safe and accessible methods include, but are not limited to, Campus Safety vehicles and Campus Safety escorts in taxi services.
- Mandate statements in *all* University syllabi that list mental health and student survivor resources within their designated section, including but not limited to CAPS, Wellness Center, Survivor Advocate, and VPEs. The template should be written in consultation with the VPE and PHE student team leads.
- **Revise the Medical Amnesty Policy** to include all possible repercussions, add language standardizing the “reduc[ed] disciplinary consequence” on the first offense, and include protocols and/or language on drug-related offenses. Moreover, the language used in the Good Samaritan Policy regarding the regulation's intent to “encourag[e] witnesses of assault...to report such events” should be reflected appropriately in the Medical Amnesty Policy. Language should, in effect, state “encourage victims of assault to self-report such events.” Per the recommendation of a PHE representative, **this will help empower and promote students to call for help if they have been roofied or sexually assaulted while under the influence.**

## Peer Resources

- Give Safe Walkers free parking passes to park close to Benson, allowing them to **walk safely to their cars** after their late-night shifts.

- Equip Safe Walk with a golf cart or other vehicle modality to more efficiently respond to calls, respond to calls from a greater distance, and **more effectively transport students to a safe location.**
- Solidify Greek Forum as a quarterly space for students and members of off-campus groups to **discuss safety concerns with University and city-wide resources**, including, but not limited to, Title IX, Cowell/CAPS, the Wellness Center, SCU EMS, Q Corner, and local first responders.

### Public Health Needs

- Provide free, readily available Plan B (or its generic equivalent) in the Cowell Center. Emergency contraceptives are price gouged and sparsely available<sup>3</sup>, even though they are a life-saving option for a plethora of student concerns. Every student should be entrusted to decide whether or not Plan B is right for them, especially for survivors of sexual violence<sup>4</sup> and those in an unsafe environment to be pregnant<sup>5</sup>. **By denying students on-campus access to contraceptive services, Jesuit universities deny students full bodily autonomy and restrict their ability to act upon decisions they feel will enhance their bodily and mental health, both of which are central to core Jesuit principles such as Unity of Heart, Mind, and Soul and Cura Personalis.** Addressing the holistic needs of students and thereby demonstrating the commitment to the development of the whole person fosters a campus environment that sincerely cares for the well-being of its students.
- Permit the Cowell Center to prescribe birth control pills for purposes outside of menstrual regulation, **including but not limited to preventing pregnancy.** Out of 254 SCU students,<sup>6</sup> 43% use birth control pills, 9% use birth control implants, 1% use a birth control patch, 1% use a ring, and 22% use an IUD. Students privileged with an outside provider receive these services, while **the 2,200+ students on the SHIP University plan are unfairly disadvantaged compared to their peers** because they are not provided birth control for the purpose of preventing pregnancy. It is *essential* that students feel as though these resources are an **accessible option to them and are not stigmatized.** Further, greater access to such resources can contribute to increased sex-positivity on campus.
- Permit the following locations to provide free condoms and dental dams **for the purpose of preventing pregnancy and/or STIs**: Cowell Center, Wellness Center, Rainbow Resource Center, all on-campus gender neutral and communal restrooms, and all on-campus housing front desks. Access to these resources has been requested by countless groups on campus and recently by [ASG's Public Health Needs Resolution](#). Out

<sup>3</sup> [The New York Times](#) found that Plan B's high demand, big-pharma manufacturing, and post-Dobbs existence makes the product an 85% profit margin at around \$46 (\$60 at SCU's local Safeway)

<sup>4</sup> [The National Institute of Health](#) found that most survivors (33%) use Plan B "first and sometimes only form of post-assault care"

<sup>5</sup> [The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) found that homicide is the leading cause of death amongst pregnant women, and 1 in 5 experience violence during their pregnancy

<sup>6</sup> This data is obtained from the [National College Health Assessment](#).

of 254 SCU students,<sup>7</sup> 49% use condoms. The data from our university is comparable to the national average<sup>8</sup>, yet it is important to consider that **many national universities with similar rates of sexually active students provide birth control to their students. Our sexual health resources should be aligned with the needs of our student population, just like other schools.** Additionally, in the Fall of 2022, condoms were available for purchase in the Cellar Market for ~2 weeks. They were sold out within a few hours each time that they were restocked, proving that there is both a great need for and desire to utilize safe sex practices amongst our student body.

### Residence Life

- Educate student staff in residence halls, who act as mandatory reporters, with more extensive training, action responses, and support in order to respond to sexual violence impacting residents. A survey uplifted by “The Associated Student Government of Santa Clara University Open Letter Regarding Student Wellbeing and Training within Residence Life” in 2022 highlighted the prominent **lack of guidance for our student residence staff, who are often the initial contact following sexual violence crises.** Broadening their training to reflect these more acute and relevant matters will foster a more trauma-informed atmosphere and better outcomes for survivors, such as lower risk of developing Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Reduction in ASD and PTSD leads to improved academic performance and student retention. Providing students with easier access to professional support and trauma-informed leaders can prevent staff from contributing to sexual assault culture and **increases the likelihood that students will reach out for help following a crisis, given the foundation of trust formed.**
- Mandate CFs and NRs to provide details about mental health and survivor resources from the Wellness Center, Title IX, and CAPS in every first-of-year hall meeting. Additionally, residence staff should be equipped with the proper information to promote peer support groups and student educators (VPEs and PHEs) which are both accessible to students and help ease the transition into college life on traumatic topics.

### Wellness Center

- Ensure that a survivor-centered therapy group, formerly “Broncos Rise” run by The Era Center, continues to be hosted in the location of the Wellness Center by a **trauma-informed and culturally conscious counselor.** Cultural consciousness, or curiosity, includes, but is not limited to, all racial and ethnic backgrounds, sexualities, genders, neurodivergence, and disability statuses. Assault can happen in *all* of these communities and produce different cultural implications. **Broncos Rise proved to be an invaluable and well-received resource to the survivor community.** Moreover, to affirm the safety and well-being of students formerly under The Era Center’s support group,

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<sup>7</sup> This data is obtained from the National College Health Assessment.

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these members should be consulted regularly to ensure evolving needs are met. Particularly, confidentiality must be maintained.

- **Affirm the importance and autonomy of the Violence Prevention Educators** by continuing to pay their independent executive team. The VPEs are currently the only group on campus that has a survivor-specific focus, not to mention the emotional strain of discussing violence on a weekly basis. Their work often requires sharing their personal stories, providing emotional support by hearing the violent stories of others, and educating known perpetrators. Both **easing and promoting the expansion of their work** includes, but is not limited to, providing them with up-to-date information on OSL and Title IX processes and including them in hiring decisions within the wellness sphere.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Associated Student Government, implore President Julie Sullivan, Kelly Douglass, Heather Dumas-Dyer, Phil Beltran, Jeanne Rosenberger, Brandi Williams, Adele Cox, Alayna Brauer, Summer Reid, Meredith Lierk, Ashleigh Pezzoni, and the rest of Santa Clara University administration to ensure that these demands are fulfilled, and to provide an *explanation* for when each request will be implemented or why it will not be implemented.

Lillian W. Humber  
'24  
*Principal Author*  
*Former Student Body*  
*President*

Claire Krebs  
*Co-Author*  
*Senate Chair*  
*Point of Contact*

Tay Grett  
*Co-Author*  
*Senator At-Large for*  
*Health and Wellness*  
*Point of Contact*

Mercedes Prats  
*Co-Author*  
*Senator At-Large for*  
*Student Safety*  
*Point of Contact*



### **Endorsements and Contributions**

- RYAN RANI and ERTA HOXHA as the 2024-2025 Associated Student Government President and Vice President
- AUGUST LAPORTE on behalf of the Violence Prevention Educators (VPEs)
- ADDISON LEWIS on behalf of the Peer Health Educators (PHEs)
- OLIVIA ALLEYNE and LUCA KENNEDY on behalf of Safe Walk SCU
- DENAE RIVERA and KENNETH PARK on behalf of the Multicultural Center (MCC)
- BELLA BURLEIGH and SYDNEY SHELBY on behalf of the Santa Clara Community Action Program (SCCAP)
- THE EXECUTIVE BOARD of The Disabled Students Union
- TATE BURKS, Rising Senior and University Resources Advisor to ASG on OAE, Wellness Center, CAPS, Campus Safety, and Violence Prevention Services