

San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education
Research & Policy Report #8, October 2022
CAMPUS LAW ENFORCEMENT

**The Status of San Diego Chicanos/Latinos in Public Higher Education:
Decolonizing Local Colleges and Universities**

This research and policy report is the eighth of a series of papers by the San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education (hereafter the SD Concilio) that analyzes data and information gathered from eleven public colleges and universities in San Diego to provide a profile of the status of local Chicanos/Latinos in higher education. The SD Concilio is a local coalition of faculty and staff, including emeriti, that has monitored and conducted advocacy for the **access and success** of Chicano/Latino students in higher education for over thirty years.

For this report, the SD Concilio asked each local campus to describe their model of law enforcement, including administration, hiring, and training, and to provide data on crime rates, annual budget, and other related activity. It is important to note that historically, the history of law enforcement throughout the United States, especially in the Southwest, is one of racist, anti-Mexican administrations, structures, policies, and practices (Beltran, 2020; Lytle Hernandez, 2022). Law enforcement is often seen as largely a tool to socially control Chicanos/Latinos and other racially subordinate groups (American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, 2020). Because educational structures and policies reflect the hierarchies of society, it is logical that such racist patterns would be found on college and university campuses, which manifest virtually every dimension of institutional racism (Persell, 1977). According to the Public Policy Institute of California Statewide Survey, 39 percent of Californians think the police in their community treat all racial and ethnic groups fairly only some of the time or almost never, an increase of 10 percentage points from May 2019 (PPIC, 2020).

In addition, there is an important equity issue in the expenditure of public funds for campus law enforcement that could be utilized for direct academic instruction and student services that contribute to success among Chicano/Latino students. At a time when local colleges and universities routinely fail to provide adequate financial resources for undocumented student centers, Chicano/Latino centers, and support services such as the Puente Program for Chicano/Latino students, our SD Concilio has heard reports of exorbitant public funds spent on campus law enforcement. Likewise, we hear reports of substantial law enforcement structures on college campuses that largely duplicate already existing law enforcement. Thus, while we certainly recognize the need to provide a safe environment at local, public higher education institutions, it is critical for our SD Concilio to monitor and analyze the way in which law enforcement is implemented on our college and university campuses.

Results

Both San Diego State University and Cal State University San Marcos provided a limited response to our SD Concilio's questions regarding law enforcement. SDSU indicated that they have their own campus police department rather than contracting with a local law enforcement agency such as the San Diego Police Department or the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. It appears that the SDSU Police Department receives direction from the law enforcement entity

of the broader California State University. However, the SDSU police adhere to a policy manual that was developed by a private entity, a potentially disturbing development. Their police department claims to be “integrated” into the campus community through its participation in various committees.

The SDSU Police Department also claims that it does not have an annual budget that can be provided to the public. This is dubious to the point of absurdity. While under the federal Clery Act, all higher education institutions are required to disclose any data on campus law enforcement incidents, the reports do not report data on the ethnicity of individuals that come in formal contact with their law enforcement officers. Likewise, they assert that they are not required to submit data on complaints filed against the campus police or data on the diversity of their officers.

The SDSU Police Department states that it utilizes social workers in certain situations and that their officers are trained in de-escalation techniques. It appears from their response that SDSU has no advisory or oversight committee for its police department.

CSUSM also has their own police department. Their web site includes a comprehensive department manual that among many policies, describes their department’s prohibition against “biased-based policy” as well as the detention of individuals based on immigration status. The department provides ongoing training to its officers.

The CSUSM Police Department also submitted no information regarding its budget or annual expenditures. There was also no data provided on the ethnicity of detainees or the ethnicity of the department’s officers. CSUSM does have an annual report on campus crime that delineates various types of incidents. The department claims to utilize counselors as well as de-escalation strategies. The campus president has oversight of the department and there is an advisory committee for the police department.

UC San Diego provided no response to our SD Concilio’s request for data and information on their law enforcement practices. Likewise, none of the local community colleges provided any response to our SD Concilio’s questions regarding law enforcement on their campus. The data and information we requested would seem to be public information available to any San Diego resident. Even the responses we received from SDSU and CSUSM are extremely troubling in their police departments’ stubborn refusal to provide even an estimate of their annual budget or the most basic data on campus officers’ interactions with the public. Without this data and information from the eleven public, credit-bearing campuses in San Diego, we cannot determine to any degree the existence of racism and/or malpractice in campus law enforcement or the possible waste of tax dollars that are sorely needed to support the education of Chicano/Latino students. Overall, the data and information we received regarding law enforcement structures, strategies, and cost was unacceptably evasive.

Table 1 describes law enforcement by college campus according to information found on their web-sites.

Table 1 San Diego County Higher Education Approach to Law Enforcement

Institution	Approach/ Model	Guiding Policies/Practices	Integration with the community	Approach to Campus Oversight & Budget
SDSU	Centralized CSU department described as a “full service police department of 40 officers”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full service police department • “community policing” model • officers operate as state peace officers 	Campus report that their police department is “fully integrated with the campus community,”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief of police and officers serving on committees, the academic senate, and campus programs and initiatives. • Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report under the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws • Diversity of personnel unknown • Budget unknown
CSU San Marcos	Own University Police Department (UPD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPD maintains a safe academic environment by being a proactive police force working closely with students, staff, faculty, and community members. • Trained annually in de-escalation techniques and that call for restorative justice practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPD participates in several campus programming efforts and training with student groups, including Police Active in Community Engagement program (PACE). • Maintains a proactive police force working with campus community 	Chief of Police has the responsibility to administer the UPD. The department has two divisions, the administrative and operations divisions, respectively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPD officers enforce all California Penal and Vehicle Codes on and around campus. • Diversity of personnel unknown • Budget unknown • Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report under the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws .
UC San Diego	UC San Diego strives to provide a safe campus environment for its students, faculty and staff in compliance with the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal Clery Act requires colleges and universities to draft and implement policies and procedures, as well as disclose certain crime statistics. Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination. 	“We believe that true excellence is achieved through productive relationships among people of diverse perspectives, as defined by UC San Diego’s Principles of community.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UC San Diego Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report - Posted Report covers 2018-2020 (police/ucsd.edu/docs/annualclery.pdf) • Reports statistics on criminal offense pp.114-117 over 3 year period • Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination handles inquiries relating to non-discrimination policies as well as issues relating to sexual harassment and sexual violence. Diversity of personnel unknown. Budget unknown.
SDCC District: Mesa CC San Diego City CC Miramar CC	Our mission is to engage the campus community in creating a safe environment in which to work, visit and learn.	District police provides the primary law enforcement response on and around City College, Mesa College, Miramar College, six continuing education centers and various San Diego Community College business offices, classrooms and properties. College Police patrol all District sites 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.	Collaboration and District Police Department is fully committed to building and maintaining meaningful partnerships within the campus, throughout the adjoining neighborhoods and with all relevant local, state and federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires SDCCD to publish Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report under the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws. Report posted in website for 2008-2020. • This publication is a coordinated effort between various departments within the district to generate, compile, and report crime, arrest, and student disciplinary information as required by the Clery Act. Annual Security Report 2018-2020 posted covers the 3 CC’s

			law enforcement agencies.	
Southwestern CC	Protect the college community, property of the district. Ensures methods that fit within and contribute to the educational philosophy of the institution.	SW CC Police Academy is a Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Certificated Training Academy for California law enforcement.	Police receive the same training as all peace officers in the county and state and have the same enforcement authority on or about the campus, which is to enforce Federal and state laws as well as institutional policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires SW to publish Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report under the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws . Posted Report covers 2018-2020 • The College's Police Department is staffed with personnel to provide law enforcement and public safety service • Diversity of personnel unknown • Budget unknown
Grossmont CC	Police services at the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District are provided by the <u>San Diego County Sheriff's Department</u>	Provides professional counselors whose professional responsibilities include providing mental health counseling to members of the campus community and who functions within the scope of his or her license or certification	Under the Clery Act , a Campus Security Authority (CSA) includes a campus police or security department. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons on college grounds are primarily responsible for their own safety and property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires GCC to publish Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report under the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws. Posted 9/27/21 <p>The district does not have its own police force. All persons on college grounds are primarily responsible for their own safety and property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of personnel unknown • Budget unknown
Cuyamaca CC	Police services at the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District are provided by the <u>San Diego County Sheriff's Department</u>	Provides professional counselors whose professional responsibilities include providing mental health counseling to members of the campus community and who functions within the scope of his or her license or certification	Under the Clery Act , a Campus Security Authority (CSA) includes a campus police or security department. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons on college grounds are primarily responsible for their own safety and property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires CCC to publish Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report under the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws Posted 9/27/21 <p>The District does not have its own police force. All persons on college grounds are primarily responsible for their own safety and property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of personnel unknown • Budget unknown
Mira Costa CC	Police Department employs Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified police officers whose peace officer authority extends throughout California. The members are responsible for protecting life and property controlled by the	Works as a team and in partnership with the community to provide college with the most professional, effective police and safety services possible, always keeping in mind ethical standards, constitutional safeguards, and respect for the human dignity of all persons.	Police Department provides ongoing awareness and prevention programs for employees and ensures that reasonable protection is provided by using methods that fit within and contribute to the educational philosophy and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires Mira Costa to publish Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report under the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws . Posted Report covers 2018-2020 • Diversity of personnel unknown • Budget unknown

	Mira Costa CC District		processes of the institution.	
Palomar CC	Police Department pledges to uphold the concepts of constitutional policing; ethical, lawful practices that seek to protect the rights of all people. Through the foundation of Relationship Based Policing we serve the campus population through extending, cultivating and earning the trust of students, faculty and staff.	<i>Through community partnerships, we provide a safe and secure learning environment to the campus community and maintain a proactive approach to crime reduction and problem solving; enabling our students to obtain a quality education. The Department works in conjunction with local, county, state, and federal agencies to accomplish our mission of safety.</i>	The Palomar College Police Department (PCPD) is responsible for providing police services to the San Marcos Campus, the Escondido Educational Center, and our new additions, the Fallbrook and Rancho Bernardo Education Centers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires Palomar CC to publish Annual Security Report & Fire Safety Report under the federal Clery Act and other federal and state laws. Posted Report covers 2018-2020 <p>The College maintains a memorandum of understanding with the San Diego Sheriff’s Department and the Escondido Police Department regarding mutual assistance pursuant to the Kristen Smart Act for Uniform Crime Report Part I crimes.</p> <p>Palomar Community College District declares itself a safe campus for learning and reaffirms its unequivocal support of all students regardless of race, religion, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, family structure, or gender identity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of personnel unknown • Budget unknown

Conclusions

During an era of unprecedented public awareness of the historic and contemporary racism embedded in law enforcement institutions throughout the United States, it is imperative that our SD Concilio monitors the structures and strategies of law enforcement on local college campuses. This includes a focus on non-racist law enforcement practices as well as a focus on the considerable expenditures of public funds on campus law enforcement, funds that could be utilized to provide direct educational services to Chicano/Latino and other similarly situated students.

Lastly, virtually all segments of a higher education institution, including academic affairs, student affairs, and business affairs, should be thoroughly assessed for their effectiveness. This involves the establishment of goals and objectives as well as quantitative and qualitative measures of effectiveness. Without such assessment, our public institutions are not accountable to taxpayers. Unfortunately, we see no evidence that law enforcement entities on our local, public colleges and universities are assessed for their effectiveness.

Those law enforcement entities on our college and university campuses are not exempt from such public accountability. It appears that in San Diego, public institutions of higher education are expending funds on law enforcement entities that do not maintain records of their practices and/or refuse to report them to the public.

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