

Final Report for Professional Development Grant

Rene Couture

College Student Personnel

March 2016

B. Restatement of problem/creative work

In March 2015 I presented at the NASPA national conference in New Orleans, LA, for a program entitled, *Helicopter Colleges: The Revolving Nature of Institutions' Relationships with Parents*.

C. Brief review of creative work

This presentation provided an overview of examples in the literature of how institutions have adjusted policies on campus and added new staff to address the concerns of parents.

D. Summary of findings, outcomes, or experiences had

In addition to the literature review on how colleges and universities are catering more to parents, I also shared the results of a survey we conducted of student affairs practitioners across the country where we asked them to list the ways in which their specific departments have made changes in response to parental demand. A major item to arise from this session was, are we returning to *in loco parentis*? Do parents want colleges and universities to be more intrusive with their sons and daughters? Intrusive may not be the best word, but certainly parents have greater expectations of college personnel than they have in the past. We are expected to always know students' whereabouts and well-being. There are advantages and disadvantages of this. An obvious disadvantage is students' freedom. Students and parents seem to like rules until it personally infringes on them.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

I have submitted an article for publication an article based on this presentation. This topic generated much interest in our session. It will be interesting to see how universities continue to be more open to parents in the future. Some institutions are even creating parent portals, just as elementary and secondary schools have done.