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A FACULTY GUIDE TO RESPONDING TO SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

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GOALS

- Learn about what, precisely, we mean by “reporting” on campus
- Understand your role as a “responsible employee”
- Understand the Victim Advocate’s role on campus
- Build capacity for responding to survivors in the moment
- Learn about new and existing initiatives on campus

NOTEWORTHY TITLE IX DATES

- Established in 1972 as an educational amendment, bars sex discrimination
- In 2011, Obama Administration issues a “Dear Colleague Letter,” outlining sexual harassment rules; places several universities under investigation
- In 2016, Obama Administration issues second DCL on trans rights, right to access bathrooms, dorm room assignments based on gender not sex, etc.
- Trump Admin / Betsy DeVos withdrew Obama-era DCL rules, replaces those rules with federal regulations, all of which went into effect August 14, 2020
- Biden Administration issued an executive order calling for review of Trump Administration regulations, we are all currently awaiting further guidance
- We juggle 4 laws: Federal Regulations, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Clery Act, and the new Massachusetts State Law on Campus Sexual Violence

RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEES & MANDATORY REPORTERS

Title IX

- Universities designate who they view as “responsible employees” for the purposes of Title IX reporting
- UMass system has decided to **include all faculty** in the list of “responsible employees”

Clery Act / CSA

- Universities are required to designate certain individuals on campus as “Campus Security Authorities,” who issue Clery reports
- Clery tracks crime rates on campus, reported annually
- At UMass Dartmouth, faculty **are not** “mandatory reporters” unless you hold a leadership position (Deans, advisors to student orgs., etc.)

THE REPORT YOU MAKE (AND ITS AFTERMATH)

- Report is sent to Title IX Coordinator, David Gomes
- Title IX Coordinator (David) assesses the report, reaches out to the student for a meeting
- Student may refuse to respond or meet with the Title IX Coordinator (David)
- Initial meeting with student includes Victim Advocate
- Student has time to decide if they wish to make a **formal complaint**
- A signed formal complaint triggers an investigation
- In some cases, Title IX Coordinator may launch an investigation on behalf of the university, in which case the student does not have to participate. They are always notified in this case.

DUTIES OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE

Victim Advocate

- Provide a confidential space for students to discuss options
- Navigate potential reporting procedures
- Outline support on campus and in the community

The Women's Center in New Bedford (508-999-6636)

- Provides after-hours crisis support
- Provides medical advocacy at all hours

SUPPORTS & INTERVENTIONS

I can provide students with the following types of support

- Referral to counseling, religious and spiritual life, etc.
- Referral to Health Services
- Academic advocacy letter to faculty (new!)
- Adjust class schedules, housing, and work assignments
- Safety planning, including institutional no-contact orders, criminal legal restraining orders
- Institutional & police reports
- ... I can also get creative!

WHAT TO DO IN THE MOMENT...

Privately

- Ideally, the survivor comes to me before speaking with you!
- Recognize the power your student is exercising in disclosing, avoid shutting down the conversation
- Allow your student to lead; they will disclose what they feel comfortable disclosing. You do not necessarily need to ask follow up questions
- Go slow, ground if necessary
- Refer the student to me, to counseling if in acute distress

Publicly (in class)

- Thank the survivor for sharing, follow up privately & refer to me
- Consider following up with your class about respecting confidentiality

SEXUAL VIOLENCE INTERVENTION & PREVENTION INITIATIVES

- Taxi voucher program
- Peer to Peer Safety Escort
- Safety App
- U Got This!
- Active Bystanders Care

Q&A,
HOPES,
DREAMS,
VISIONS



MY CONTACT

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