

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Task Force to Review

Student on Student Complaints of Harassment, Including Sexual Misconduct, and Discrimination

CHARGE:

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the University revised its existing harassment, sexual harassment and misconduct policies and procedures. These changes followed the recommendations and guidance from the April 2011 Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights "Dear Colleague Letter."

In August 2012, our current Policy on Prohibited Harassment, Including Sexual Misconduct, and Discrimination, became effective. As part of our ongoing community engagement regarding issues of sexual misconduct and our ongoing assessment of the University's responses to reports of sexual assault and harassment in light of student concerns and complaints about University policy and procedures, the Chancellor decided that the University would benefit from a review of its approach to addressing student on student complaints and asked Ann Penn, the University's Equal Opportunity/ADA Officer and Title IX Officer, to seek input from representative members of the campus community and then appoint a Task Force with representation from faculty, administrators, students, and community members to undertake this review.

The Task Force will:

- Review the current policy and procedure for addressing student on student complaints and identify areas for improvement of clarity, tone, content and organization;
- Gather and review specific feedback on this issue from members of the University community;
- Examine the requirements of Title IX, the Clery Act, the Campus SAVE Act and other federal and state mandates to ensure our student on student policy and procedure meets our obligations; and
- Based on the above, develop recommendations for additional changes to the policy and procedure that will improve its effectiveness for the University community.

Christi Hurt, the University's Interim Title IX Coordinator, will serve as chair of the Task Force. This effort will be informed by specific feedback received from our community and recommendations from the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights and from our outside consultant who will support the effort as needed. The Task Force is expected to work in a focused manner and present its recommendations to the Equal Opportunity/ADA Officer and Title IX Officer. The final recommendations will be presented to the Chancellor and the Chancellor's Cabinet for review and approval. We expect any revisions and improvements to be in place by the start of the 2013 Fall semester.