

Southwestern University
Title IX Compliance Committee
Update to the Community, April 27, 2015

Dear Campus Community,

This is an update on the actions and events, both planned and completed, since the Title IX Compliance Committee's weekly update dated April 20, 2015. All updates are posted on the Title IX Compliance Committee website, <http://www.southwestern.edu/titleix/committee/>

Please Note: This will be the last weekly update for the 2014-2015 academic year. As noted below, work will continue through the summer on related projects. Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, the Title IX Compliance Committee will issue a Report to the Community once each semester (or more frequently if needed).

- The Curriculum Committee has asked the Title IX Compliance Committee to draft a suggested statement regarding sexual misconduct/assault to place on all course syllabi for their review and consideration for their meeting on May 1, 2015.
- Some of the updates to the Title IX related web pages have been implemented on the University's Title IX web page <http://www.southwestern.edu/titleix/index.php>. Enhancements to the Title IX related web pages will continue through the summer.
- The Task Force appointed by Jerry Brody, Vice President for Student Life, to review and make recommendations for revisions to the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy is nearing completion of its work. The revised Policy will be published in the 2015-2016 Student Handbook.
- Review of the University's policies and procedures related to Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Assault by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault ("TAASA") will be conducted during the summer of 2015.
- A sub-committee of the Title IX Compliance Committee, led by the University's Sexual Harassment Officer, has completed its regular administrative review of the University's Policies and Procedures on Sexual Harassment ("Policy"). In addition to the needed regulatory updates, a recommendation was presented to the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee on April 27, 2015 by the Sexual Harassment Officer asking it to endorse the dissolution of the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Advisory Committee ("SHAC"). The functions of the SHAC have largely been performed by the Sexual Assault Risk Reduction Committee since its inception as a result of the 2011 "Dear Colleague" letter from the Federal Department of Education and now as an official committee within the new Committee structure. Dissolving SHAC will streamline and eliminate redundancy in the University's Committee structure. It will help to make it clearer to students, faculty, and staff how the Committee structure supports and educates the campus community through the Sexual Assault Risk Reduction Committee. It was noted that the Sexual Harassment complaint process within the Policy will remain intact (formal and informal complaint processes). It was also noted that the Hearing Boards for student judiciary hearings (including hearings for sexual misconduct/sexual assault complaints) will NOT be affected by this change since this process is separate from the Sexual Harassment policy/procedures. The recommendation was endorsed by the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, and the recommendation will be forwarded to the Committee Review Board. Updates to the Policy will be included in the 2015-2016 Student, Faculty, and Staff Handbooks.

- Review of the suggestion to add a notice on student's transcripts regarding disciplinary actions such as sexual misconduct will continue as part of the review by the University's legal counsel and the Title IX Leadership team. Kim Morter, Assistant Dean for Academic Success and Director of Records, has been in consultation with students to further discuss this item.
- The regular annual notice reminding all campus constituents about policies and resources related to sexual harassment/misconduct, and alcohol and drug-free workplace requirement will be sent to the student, faculty and staff listserves by Wednesday, April 29, 2015.
- The one remaining event for the 2014-2015 academic year regarding sexual misconduct/sexual assault awareness is "Denim Day" on April 29th. This is a link for additional information <http://www.dvsac.org/denim-day/>