

**From:** Mary Williams  
**Sent:** Thu, 10 Jun 2021 19:46:54 +0000  
**To:** T9PublicHearing  
**Subject:** Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing (due process rule)

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June 10, 2021

I write to express my concern about the abolishment of the due process rule for disciplinary proceedings in universities and colleges.

University administrators already have too much power in disciplinary proceedings, which are generally rigged against the accused student from the beginning. In the case of sexual assault, a criminal action, the matter should be entirely handled by a regular court where the accused would have protections guaranteed by the Federal and State constitutions. Universities have no business dealing criminal matters, about which they have no training or authority.

I would prefer that no such disciplinary panels exist at all since the universities have become so corrupted and governed by ideology, abuses are rampant. What now is to stop false accusations against a student based on their race, religion, sex, or political opinions? I am aware of a white women subjected to such a proceeding on the charge of stalking. She walked by a male professor going in the opposite direction one time on the way to class and did not stop or speak to the professor. She was not his student. But he thought it fun to bring a charge. This and similar abuses are what you are condoning by the proposed rule change.

Tribunals in which the investigator is the same as the prosecutor, and sometimes the judge as well, are foreign to our country's system of justice and are, in fact, not just. Punishments of those who are not able to defend themselves are totalitarian and have no place in free societies. Students are at the mercy of their institutions, to which they pay large sums to gain an education and find it impossible to fight back against administrators or university lawyers. If universities insist on dealing with sexual assaults or accusations of other such actions on campus, basic due process right must be afforded to accused students. These rights come from God, not universities or the Federal Government. People must be guaranteed the presumption of innocence (something almost entirely lacking on college campuses), the right to see the evidence against themselves, the right to a hearing and to cross examine witnesses, and if necessary, must be able to have an attorney to defend themselves.

I remind you that you are granting to these tribunals the ability to ruin lives. In this country, we should not undertake that casually or with glee at the thought of hurting others.

Sincerely yours,  
Mary Frances Williams, Ph.D.

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