

From: Pat Seattle
Sent: Thu, 10 Jun 2021 21:57:35 -0700
To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Written Comment: Title IX Public Hearing: More Due Process For ALL
Attachments: T9 comment letter June 10.docx

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Please see attached. I testified during the hearings that took place leading up to the 2020 rules.
Thank you for taking my statement, attached.
Pat

Written comment: Title IX Public Hearing: More due process for all

< name withheld; parent of accused son >

Today, while thinking about my statement to you, I'm reliving one of the worst days of my life, when my son's girlfriend called to say my son was talking suicide.

He'd just learned from a dean that he'd been expelled for sexual misconduct. He'd suffered through the Title IX process on his own because he was embarrassed to tell us, he had every reason to think that the school was a neutral party, and he was sure the truth would prevail.

He may not have stood a chance -- his Title IX process took place before the DOE's 2020 rules were issued. The school treated him well enough, but the process was biased and amateur.

Three women, all friends, once his friends, accused him of sexual misconduct (there was no sexual intercourse).

One of the three wove such a mangled story her claim didn't move forward. It was amazing her story didn't backfire on the other two. Didn't matter.

One had had multiple casual hookups with my son and in fact had initiated the first hookup (what my son described later as an aggressive, uninvited sexual advance) a year earlier. Didn't matter, she denied any sexual activity except for the two instances she laid on the table.

One was a pre-professional victim. Who had just found out she was failing her first basic class in her major. Who enlisted the other two accusers. Who posted selfies holding an anti-rape sign. Who started the whole ugly process by converting her man-crush into her boyfriend and champion. Who took advantage of Title IX academic accommodation. Who immediately spread the word that my son raped three people.

My son had no one except his betrayed girlfriend. The accusers got support from the campus rape center. They came to the sham hearing and sat hidden, because they claimed to be too traumatized to face my son. One of them changed her story at the hearing to make my son more aggressive. Didn't matter. They wanted validation for their year of "activism." They wanted him expelled.

There's no such thing as too much due process. A live hearing with real cross-examination is baseline. The accused deserve equitable support because the sanctions are life altering, as is prolonged harassment. Accusers need to be immediately and strongly sanctioned for defamation campaigns.

DOE and OCR must help schools grow a spine. Otherwise, the message you're sending to students is clear: You too can be a powerful victim. Tell your story first, enlist your friends, point the finger, post on social media, complain about the process publicly until you get the validation you think you deserve. The school administration is there to help.