

From: Darese Doskal
Sent: Mon, 7 Jun 2021 14:52:54 +0000
To: T9PublicHearing
Subject: Title IX Commentary

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to give feedback on the current Title IX regulations. I have been a title ix coordinator for 10 years and have overseen student conduct at my current institution for 15 years. I have been involved in college student conduct work for over 25 years.

It has been heartening to see colleges and universities acknowledge the challenges sexual harassment survivors face within the academic setting over the past 15 or so years, but this past year has been one of the most challenging. I work at a small community college. Our students often lack self-advocacy skills to start with and are often afraid to discuss sexual harassment. While COVID also impacted students' ability and willingness to come forward about anything this year, the current regulations also put a huge block to that. As students did come forward with concerns/incidents, the description of the timeline and process of the current process caused the majority of them to opt out. A process that will take at least a couple months and will result in them being cross examined by someone who could be a lawyer or could be the parent of their alleged harasser, is more than our students are willing to deal with. An 18 year old who is already limited in their self-advocacy and other skills is not ready for this type of process. And they shouldn't have to be as a first year college student. There needs to be a safer way to address these issues!

Additionally, the current process requires so much administrative oversight, that one case could involve 8 or more professional staff members at various points over several months. This is not the criminal system; we are a small college with only a small handful of individuals working in this area. The new program requires hours of training for individuals who did not choose this type of work. It is very cumbersome and over involved.

Finally, the requirement that the college have advisors prepared to cross examine is also highly cumbersome. We do not have law students or additional funding to pay, much less train, our faculty and staff to essentially act as lawyers. This is an unreasonable expectation for small institutions.

I truly appreciate that the regulations are being re-examined and hope we can find a more suitable process to serve our students. I am happy to provide further information if that would be helpful.

Thank you!
Darese Doskal

Darese Doskal
(she/her/hers)

Director, Student Conduct and Community Standards
Senior Title IX Coordinator
Ph: 607.844.6591
Fax: 607.844.6544
dad@tompkincortland.edu



Strategic * Individualization * Adaptability * Input * Relator