

West Virginia University at Parkersburg Board of Governors

**POLICY A-44**  
**POLICY AND PROCEDURES REGARDING HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION**

**Appendix 2**

**Administrative Resolution Procedures  
for Alleged Violations of the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination:**

**PROCESS "B"**

**1. Overview**

WVU at Parkersburg will act on any formal or informal allegation or notice of violation of the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination that is received by the Title IX Coordinator<sup>1</sup> or a member of the administration, faculty, or other employee, with the exception of confidential resources, as articulated in the Policy.

The procedures described below apply to allegations of harassment or discrimination on the basis of protected class status involving students, staff, faculty members, or third parties.

The procedures below may be used to address collateral misconduct arising from the investigation of or occurring in conjunction with reported misconduct (e.g., vandalism, physical abuse of another). All other allegations of misconduct unrelated to incidents covered by the Policy will be addressed through Policy D-46, Code of Student Conduct, or Policy B-21, Employee Discipline.

**2. Initial Assessment**

Following intake, receipt of notice, or a complaint of an alleged violation of WVU at Parkersburg's nondiscrimination Policy, the Title IX Coordinator<sup>2</sup> engages in an initial assessment, which is typically one to five business days in duration. The steps in an initial assessment can include:

- The Title IX Coordinator reaches out to the Complainant to offer supportive measures.
- The Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to ensure they have an Advisor.
- The Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to determine whether the Complainant prefers a supportive response or an Administrative Resolution.
  - If a supportive and remedial response is preferred, the Title IX Coordinator works with the Complainant to identify their wishes and then seeks to facilitate implementation. In this case, the Administrative Resolution process is not initiated, though the Complainant can elect to initiate it later, if desired.

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<sup>1</sup> All references herein to a Title IX Coordinator also include a designee of the Title IX Coordinator.

<sup>2</sup> If circumstances require, the Executive Director of Human Resources, serving as Deputy Title IX Coordinator, will oversee the process below should an allegation be made about the Coordinator or the Coordinator be otherwise unavailable or unable to fulfill their duties.

- If an Informal Resolution option is preferred, the Title IX Coordinator assesses whether the complaint is suitable for informal resolution, which informal mechanism may serve the situation best or is available, and may seek to determine if the Respondent is also willing to engage in Informal Resolution.
- If Administrative Resolution is preferred, the Title IX Coordinator initiates the investigation process and determines whether the scope of the investigation will address:
  - Incident, and/or
  - A potential pattern of misconduct, and/or
  - A culture/climate issue.
- In some cases, the Title IX Coordinator may determine that a Violence Risk Assessment (VRA) should be conducted by the Threat Assessment Team as part of the initial assessment. A VRA can aid in ten critical and/or required determinations, including:
  - Interim suspension of a Respondent who is a threat to health/safety;
  - Whether the Title IX Coordinator should pursue Administrative Resolution absent a willing/able Complainant;
  - Whether to put the investigation on the footing of incident and/or pattern and/or climate;
  - To help identify potentially predatory conduct;
  - To help assess/identify grooming behaviors;
  - Whether a Complaint is amenable to Informal Resolution, and what modality may be most successful;
  - Whether to permit a voluntary withdrawal by the Respondent;
  - Whether to impose transcript notation or communicate with a transfer institution about a Respondent;
  - Assessment of appropriate sanctions/remedies;
  - Whether a Clery Act Timely Warning and/or Trespass order is needed.

Based on the initial assessment, WVU at Parkersburg will initiate one of two responses:

- Informal Resolution – typically used for less serious offenses and only when all parties agree to Alternate Resolution, or when the Respondent is willing to accept responsibility for violating policy. This can also include a remedies-only response.
- Administrative Resolution – investigation of policy violation(s) and recommended finding, subject to a determination by the Title IX Coordinator and the opportunity to appeal to an Appeal Officer.

The investigation and the subsequent Administrative Resolution determine whether the nondiscrimination policy has been violated. If so, WVU at Parkersburg will promptly implement effective remedies designed to end the discrimination, prevent recurrence, and address the effects.

The process followed considers the preference of the parties but is ultimately determined at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator. At any point during the initial assessment or formal investigation, if the Title IX Coordinator determines that reasonable cause does not support the conclusion that policy has been violated, the process will end, and the parties will be notified.

The Complainant may request that the Title IX Coordinator review the reasonable cause determination and/or re-open the investigation. This decision lies in the sole discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, but the request is usually only granted in extraordinary circumstances.

### 3. Resolution Process Pool

The resolution processes rely on a pool of officials ("Pool") to carry out the process. Members of the Pool are announced in an annual distribution of this Policy to all members of the campus community.

The list of members and a description of the Pool can be found at [www.wvup.edu/harassment-and-discrimination/](http://www.wvup.edu/harassment-and-discrimination/). Members of the Pool are trained annually and can serve in any of the following roles, at the direction of the Title IX Coordinator:

- To provide appropriate intake for and initial guidance pertaining to the allegations
- To act as optional process Advisors to the parties
- To investigate allegations
- To serve as a Decision-maker
- To serve as an Appeal Officer

The Title IX Coordinator carefully vets Pool members for potential conflicts of interest or disqualifying biases and, in consultation with the President, appoints the Pool, which acts with independence and impartiality in their assigned roles.

Pool members receive annual training organized by the Title IX Coordinator, including a review of WVU at Parkersburg policies and procedures as well as applicable federal and state laws and regulations so that they are able to appropriately address allegations, provide accurate information to members of the community, protect safety, and promote accountability.

The Pool members also receive annual training on their respective roles. This training includes, but is not limited to:

- The scope of WVU at Parkersburg's Harassment and Discrimination Policy and Procedures
- How to conduct investigations and hearings that protect the safety of Complainants and Respondents and promote accountability
- Implicit bias
- Disparate treatment and impact
- Reporting, confidentiality, and privacy requirements
- Applicable laws, regulations, and federal regulatory guidance
- How to implement appropriate and situation-specific remedies
- How to investigate in a thorough, reliable, and impartial manner
- How to uphold fairness, equity, and due process
- How to weigh evidence
- How to conduct questioning
- How to assess credibility
- Impartiality and objectivity
- Types of evidence
- Deliberation
- How to render findings and generate clear, concise, evidence-based rationales
- The definitions of all offenses
- How to apply definitions used by WVU at Parkersburg with respect to consent (or the absence or negation of consent) consistently, impartially, and in accordance with policy

- How to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes
- How to serve impartially, by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias
- Any technology to be use
- Issues of relevance of questions and evidence
- Issues of relevance to create an investigation report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence
- How to determine appropriate sanctions in reference to all forms of harassment and discrimination allegations

Specific training is also provided for Appeal Officers, intake personnel, and Advisors. All Pool members are required to attend this annual training.

The Resolution Process Pool includes representation from Human Resources, Academic and Student Affairs, the Jackson County Center, at least one representative from the Campus Police and Security Department, as well as other administrators or professional staff. Individuals who are interested in serving in the Pool are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator.

#### 4. Counterclaims

Counterclaims by the Respondent may be made in good faith but are also sometimes made for purposes of retaliation. WVU at Parkersburg is obligated to ensure that any process is not abused for retaliatory purposes.

WVU at Parkersburg permits the filing of counterclaims, but uses the initial assessment, described in the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination, to assess whether the allegations are made in good faith. If they are, the allegations will be processed using the resolution procedures below, typically after resolution of the underlying allegation.

A delay in the processing of counterclaims is permitted, accordingly. Occasionally, allegations and counterclaims can be resolved through the same investigation, at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator. When counterclaims are not made in good faith, they will be considered retaliatory, and may constitute a violation of the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination.

#### 5. Advisors

##### a. Expectations of an Advisor

WVU at Parkersburg generally expects an Advisor to adjust their schedule to allow them to attend WVU at Parkersburg meetings when planned, but the college may change scheduled meetings to accommodate an Advisor's inability to attend, if doing so does not cause an unreasonable delay.

WVU at Parkersburg may also make reasonable provisions to allow an Advisor who cannot attend in person to attend a meeting by telephone, video conferencing, or other similar technologies as may be convenient and available.

Parties whose Advisors are disruptive or who do not abide by WVU at Parkersburg policies and procedures may face the loss of that Advisor and/or possible Policy violations.

Advisors are expected to consult with their advisees without disrupting WVU at Parkersburg meetings or interviews. Advisors do not represent parties in the process; their role is only to advise.

## **b. Expectations of the Parties with Respect to Advisors**

Each party may choose an Advisor<sup>3</sup> who is eligible and available<sup>4</sup> to accompany them throughout the process. The Advisor can be anyone, including an attorney, but should not be someone who is also a witness in the process. A party may elect to change Advisors during the process and is not obligated to use the same Advisor throughout.

The parties are expected to inform the Investigators of the identity of their Advisor at least two (2) business days before the date of their first meeting with the Investigator(s) (or as soon as possible if a more expeditious meeting is necessary or desired).

The parties are expected to provide timely notice to the Investigator(s) and/or the Title IX Coordinator if they change Advisors at any time.

Upon written request of a party, WVU at Parkersburg will copy the Advisor on all communications between WVU at Parkersburg and the party. The Advisor may be asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) regarding private, sensitive records.

## **6. Resolution Options**

Proceedings are private. All persons present at any time during the resolution process are expected to maintain the privacy of the proceedings in accord with WVU at Parkersburg Policy.

While there is an expectation of privacy around what is discussed during interviews, the parties have discretion to share their own experiences with others if they so choose, but are encouraged to discuss with their Advisors first before doing so.

### **a. Informal Resolution**

Informal Resolution is applicable when the parties voluntarily agree to resolve the matter through Alternate Resolution or when the Respondent accepts responsibility for violating Policy, or when the Title IX Coordinator can resolve the matter informally by providing remedies to resolve the situation.

It is not necessary to pursue Informal Resolution first in order to pursue Administrative Resolution, and any party participating in Informal Resolution can stop the process at any time and request the Administrative Resolution process. Further, if an Informal Resolution fails after the fact, Administrative Resolution may be pursued.

#### **1) Alternate Resolution**

Alternate Resolution is an informal process, such as mediation or restorative practices, by which the

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<sup>3</sup> This could include an attorney, advocate, or support person. Witnesses are not entitled to Advisors within the process, though they can be advised externally. If WVU at Parkersburg allows more than one Advisor for one party, they should do so for all parties.

<sup>4</sup> "Available" means the party cannot insist on an Advisor who simply doesn't have inclination, time, or availability. Also, the Advisor cannot have institutionally conflicting roles, such as being a Title IX administrator who has an active role in the matter, or a supervisor who must monitor and implement sanctions.

parties mutually agree to resolve an allegation. It may be used for less serious, yet inappropriate, behaviors and is encouraged as an alternative to the Administrative Resolution process (described below) to resolve conflicts. The parties must consent to the use of Alternate Resolution.

The Title IX Coordinator determines if Alternate Resolution is appropriate, based on the willingness of the parties, the nature of the conduct at issue, and the susceptibility of the conduct to Alternate Resolution.

In an Alternate Resolution meeting, a trained administrator facilitates a dialogue with the parties to an effective resolution, if possible. Institutionally-imposed sanctions are not possible as the result of an Alternate Resolution process, though the parties may agree to accept sanctions and/or appropriate remedies.

The Title IX Coordinator maintains records of any resolution that is reached, and failure to abide by the resolution can result in appropriate enforcement actions.

Alternate Resolution is not typically the primary resolution mechanism used to address reports of violent behavior of any kind or in other cases of serious violations of policy, though it may be made available after the Administrative Resolution process is completed should the parties and the Title IX Coordinator believe it could be beneficial. The results of Alternate Resolution are not appealable.

## **2) Respondent Accepts Responsibility for Alleged Violations**

The Respondent may accept responsibility for all or part of the alleged policy violations at any point during the resolution process. If the Respondent accepts responsibility, the Title IX Coordinator makes a determination that the individual is in violation of WVU at Parkersburg Policy.

The Title IX Coordinator then determines appropriate sanction(s) or responsive actions, which are promptly implemented in order to effectively stop the harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation; prevent its recurrence; and remedy the effects of the conduct, both on the Complainant and the community.

If the Respondent accepts responsibility for all of the alleged policy violations and the Title IX Coordinator or designee has determined appropriate sanction(s) or responsive actions, which are promptly implemented, the process is over. The Complainant will be informed of this outcome.

If the Respondent accepts responsibility for some of the alleged policy violations and the Title IX Coordinator has determined appropriate sanction(s) or responsive actions, which are promptly implemented, for those violations, then the remaining allegations will continue to be investigated and resolved. The Complainant will be informed of this outcome. The parties are still able to seek Alternate Resolution on the remaining allegations, subject to the stipulations above.

## **3) Negotiated Resolution**

The Title IX Coordinator, with the consent of the parties, may negotiate and implement any agreement to resolve the allegations that satisfies all parties and WVU at Parkersburg.

## b. Administrative Resolution

Administrative Resolution can be pursued for any behavior for which the Respondent has not accepted responsibility that constitutes conduct covered by the Harassment and Discrimination Policy at any time during the process. Administrative Resolution starts with a thorough, reliable, and impartial investigation.

If Administrative Resolution is initiated, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notification of the investigation to the parties at an appropriate time during the investigation. Typically, notice is given at least 48 hours in advance of an interview. Advanced notice facilitates the parties' ability to identify and choose an Advisor, if any, to accompany them to the interview.

Notification will include a meaningful summary of the allegations, will be made in writing, and may be delivered by one or more of the following methods: in person, mailed to the U.S. Postal address of the parties as indicated in official WVU at Parkersburg records, or emailed to the parties' WVU at Parkersburg-issued email account.

Once mailed, emailed, and/or received in-person, notice will be presumptively delivered. The notification should include the policies allegedly violated, if known at the time. Alternatively, the policies allegedly violated can be provided at a later date, in writing, as the investigation progresses, and details become clearer.

WVU at Parkersburg aims to complete all investigations within a sixty (60) business day time period, which can be extended as necessary for appropriate cause by the Title IX Coordinator, with notice to the parties as appropriate.

Once the decision is made to commence an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator appoints Pool members to conduct the investigation (typically using a team of two Investigators), usually within two (2) days of determining that an investigation should proceed. The Title IX Coordinator will vet the assigned Investigator(s) to ensure impartiality by ensuring there are no conflicts of interest or disqualifying bias.

The parties may, at any time during the resolution process, raise a concern regarding bias or conflict of interest, and the Title IX Coordinator will determine whether the concern is reasonable and supportable. If so, another Investigator will be assigned and the impact of the bias or conflict, if any, will be remedied. If the bias or conflict relates to the Title IX Coordinator, concerns should be raised with the Deputy Title IX Coordinator at the main Parkersburg campus.

Investigations are completed expeditiously, normally within 10-20 business days, though some investigations take weeks or even months, depending on the nature, extent, and complexity of the allegations, availability of witnesses, police involvement, etc. WVU at Parkersburg will make a good faith effort to complete investigations as promptly as circumstances permit and will communicate regularly with the parties to update them on the progress and timing of the investigation.

WVU at Parkersburg may undertake a short delay in its investigation (several days to weeks, to allow evidence collection) when criminal charges based on the same behaviors that invoke WVU at Parkersburg's resolution process are being investigated by law enforcement. WVU at Parkersburg will promptly resume its investigation and resolution process once notified by law enforcement that the initial evidence collection process is complete.

WVU at Parkersburg action(s) are not typically altered or precluded on the grounds that civil or criminal charges involving the underlying incident(s) have been filed or that criminal charges have been dismissed or reduced.

Investigations involve interviews with all relevant parties and witnesses, obtaining available, relevant evidence, and identifying sources of expert information, as necessary.

All parties have a full and fair opportunity, through the investigation process, to suggest witnesses and questions, to provide evidence, and to fully review and respond to all evidence, on the record.

## 7. Notice of Investigation and Allegations

The Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice of the investigation and allegations (the "NOIA") to the Respondent upon commencement of the Administrative Resolution Process. This facilitates the Respondent's ability to prepare for the interview and to identify and choose an Advisor, if any, to accompany them. The NOIA is also copied to the Complainant, who is to be given advance notice of when the NOIA will be delivered to the Respondent. The NOIA will include:

- A meaningful summary of all of allegations,
- The identity of the involved parties (if known),
- The precise misconduct being alleged,
- The date and location of the alleged incident(s) (if known),
- The specific policies implicated,
- A description of the applicable procedures,
- A statement of the potential sanctions/responsive actions that could result,
- A statement about WVU at Parkersburg's policy on retaliation,
- Information about the privacy of the process,
- Information on the right to have an Advisor of their choosing present for all meetings attended by the advisee,
- A statement informing the parties that WVU at Parkersburg's Policy prohibits knowingly making false statements, including knowingly submitting false information during the resolution process,
- Detail on how the party may request disability accommodations during the interview process,
- A link to WVU at Parkersburg's VAWA Brochure, if applicable
- The name(s) of the Investigator(s), along with a process to identify, in advance of the interview process, to the Title IX Coordinator any conflict of interest that the Investigator(s) may have, and
- An instruction to preserve any evidence that is directly related to the allegations.

Amendments and updates to the NOIA may be made as the investigation progresses and more information becomes available regarding the various charges.

Notice will be made in writing and may be delivered by one or more of the following methods: in person, mailed to the U.S. Postal address indicated in official WVU at Parkersburg records, or emailed to the parties' college-issued email accounts. Once mailed, emailed, and/or received in-person, notice will be presumptively delivered.

## 8. Investigation

The Investigators typically take the following steps, if not already completed (not necessarily in this order):

- Assist the Title IX Coordinator with conducting an initial assessment to determine if there is reasonable cause to believe the Respondent has violated policy.

- Commence a thorough, reliable, and impartial investigation by developing a strategic investigation plan, including a witness list, evidence list, intended investigation timeframe, and order of interviews for all parties and witnesses.
- Meet with the Complainant to finalize their statement, if necessary.
- Identify all policies implicated by the alleged misconduct if not already identified.
- Consult with the Title IX Coordinator about any need to amend the NOIA with any additional or withdrawn allegations.
- Provide the parties and witnesses with an opportunity to review and verify the Investigator's summary notes from interviews and meetings with that specific party or witness.
- Make good faith efforts to notify the parties of any meeting or interview involving the other party, in advance when possible.
- Interview all relevant individuals and conduct follow-up interviews as necessary.
- Allow each party the opportunity to suggest questions they wish the Investigator(s) to ask of the other party and witnesses.
- If there is insufficient evidence to support reasonable cause, the investigation process is closed with no further action.
- Complete the investigation promptly and without unreasonable deviation from the intended timeline.
- Provide regular status updates to the parties and to the Title IX Coordinator throughout the investigation.
- Prior to the conclusion of the investigation, summarize for the parties the list of witnesses whose information will be used to render a finding.
- Write a comprehensive investigation report fully summarizing the investigation and all evidence.
- Share the draft investigation report with the Title IX Coordinator for review and feedback.
- Provide parties with a copy of the draft investigation report when it is completed, including all relevant evidence, analysis, credibility assessments, and recommended finding(s).
- Provide each party with a full and fair opportunity to respond to the report in writing within five (5) business days and incorporate that response into the report.
- Investigators may choose to respond in writing in the report to the responses of the parties, and/or to share the responses between the parties for their responses, while also ensuring that they do not create a never-ending feedback loop.
- Provide the final report to the Title IX Coordinator. Recommend to the Title IX Coordinator a finding, based on a preponderance of the evidence (whether a policy violation is more likely than not).

## 9. Determination

Within two to three days of receiving the Investigator's recommendation, the Title IX Coordinator or a trained, designated Decision-maker from the Pool<sup>5</sup> reviews the report and all responses, and then makes the final determination on the basis of the preponderance of the evidence.

If the record is incomplete, the Title IX Coordinator/Decision-maker may direct a re-opening of the investigation, or may direct or conduct any additional inquiry necessary, including informally meeting with the parties or any witnesses, if needed.

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<sup>5</sup> When the Title IX Coordinator is the Investigator or has been heavily involved in the process prior to determination, a Decision-maker should be designated from the Pool to ensure there is no conflict of interest.

The recommendation of the investigation should be strongly considered but is not binding on the Title IX Coordinator/Decision-Maker. The Title IX Coordinator or Decision-maker may invite and consider impact statements from the parties if and when determining appropriate sanction(s), if any.

The Title IX Coordinator then timely provides the parties with a written Notice of Outcome to include findings, any sanction(s), and a detailed rationale, delivered simultaneously (without undue delay) to the parties.

## **10. Additional Details of the Investigation Process**

### **a. Witness responsibilities**

Witnesses (as distinguished from the parties) who are faculty or staff of WVU at Parkersburg are expected to cooperate with and participate in WVU at Parkersburg's investigation and resolution process. Failure of a witness to cooperate with and/or participate in the investigation or resolution process constitutes a violation of Policy and may be subject to discipline.

### **b. Remote processes**

Parties and witnesses may be interviewed remotely by phone, video conferencing, or similar technologies if the Investigator(s) or Decision-maker determine that timeliness or efficiency dictates a need for remote interviewing. Witnesses may also provide written statements in lieu of interviews, or respond to questions in writing, if deemed appropriate by the Investigator(s), though this approach is not ideal. Where remote technologies are used, WVU at Parkersburg makes reasonable efforts to ensure privacy, and that any technology does not work to the detriment of any party or subject them to unfairness.

### **c. Recording**

No unauthorized audio or video recording of any kind is permitted during the resolution process. If Investigator(s) elect to audio and/or video record interviews, all involved parties will be made aware.

### **d. Evidence**

Any evidence that is relevant and credible may be considered, including an individual's prior misconduct history as well as evidence indicating a pattern of misconduct. The process should exclude irrelevant or immaterial evidence and may disregard evidence lacking in credibility or that is improperly prejudicial.

### **e. Sexual history/patterns**

Unless the Title IX Coordinator determines it is appropriate, the investigation and the finding do not consider: (1) incidents not directly related to the possible violation, unless they evidence a pattern; (2) the sexual history of the parties (though there may be a limited exception made with regard to the sexual history between the parties); or (3) the character of the parties.

### **f. Previous allegations/violations**

While previous conduct violations by the Respondent are not generally admissible as information supporting the current allegation, the Investigator(s) may supply the Title IX Coordinator with information about previous

good faith allegations and/or findings, when that information suggests potential pattern and/or predatory conduct.

Previous disciplinary action of any kind involving the Respondent may be considered in determining the appropriate sanction(s), in accordance with a progressive discipline system, when applicable.

#### **g. Character witnesses**

Character witnesses or evidence may be offered. The investigation and hearing will determine if the character evidence is relevant. If so, it may be considered. If not, it will be excluded.

#### **h. Notification of outcome**

If the Respondent admits to the violation(s), or is found in violation, the Title IX Coordinator, in consultation with other administrators as appropriate, determines sanction(s) and/or responsive actions, which are promptly implemented in order to effectively stop the harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation; prevent its recurrence; and remedy the effects of the discriminatory conduct, both on the Complainant and the community.

The Title IX Coordinator informs the parties of the determination within two to three business days of the resolution, ideally simultaneously, but without significant time delay between notifications. Notifications are made in writing and may be delivered by one or more of the following methods: in person; mailed to the U.S. Postal address of the parties as indicated in official WVU at Parkersburg records; or emailed to the parties' WVU at Parkersburg-issued email accounts. Once mailed, emailed, and/or received in-person, notice is presumptively delivered.

The Notification of Outcome specifies the finding for each alleged policy violation, any sanction(s) that may result which WVU at Parkersburg is permitted to share pursuant to state or federal law, and the rationale supporting the essential findings to the extent WVU at Parkersburg is permitted to share under state or federal law.

The notice will detail when the determination is considered final and will detail any changes that are made prior to finalization.

Unless based on an acceptance of violation by the Respondent, the determination may be appealed by either party. The Notification of Outcome also includes the grounds on which the parties may appeal and the steps the parties may take to request an appeal of the findings. More information about the appeal procedures can be found below.

## **11. Sanctions**

Factors considered when determining any sanction(s)/responsive action(s) may include, but are not limited to:

- The nature, severity of, and circumstances surrounding the violation
- An individual's disciplinary history
- Previous allegations or allegations involving similar conduct
- The need for sanctions/responsive actions to bring an end to the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation
- The need for sanctions/responsive actions to prevent the future recurrence of discrimination, harassment,

- and/or retaliation
- The need to remedy the effects of the discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation on the Complainant and the community
- The impact on the parties
- Any other information deemed relevant by the Title IX Coordinator

The sanction(s) will be implemented as soon as is feasible. The sanctions described in this policy are not exclusive of, and may be in addition to, other actions taken, or sanctions imposed by outside authorities.

#### a. Student Sanctions

The following are the sanctions that may be imposed upon students or organizations singly or in combination:

- *Warning:* A formal statement that the conduct was unacceptable and a warning that further violation of any WVU at Parkersburg policy, procedure, or directive will result in more severe sanctions/responsive actions.
- *Required Education/Counseling:* A mandate to meet with and engage in specified educational activities and/or college-sponsored or external counseling to better comprehend the misconduct and its effects.
- *Probation:* A written reprimand for violation of institutional policy, providing for more severe disciplinary sanctions in the event that the student or organization is found in violation of any institutional policy, procedure, or directive within a specified period of time. Terms of the probation will be articulated and may include denial of specified social privileges, exclusion from co-curricular activities, exclusion from designated areas of campus, no-contact orders, and/or other measures deemed appropriate.
- *Suspension:* Termination of student status for a definite period of time not to exceed two years and/or until specific criteria are met. Students who return from suspension may be automatically placed on probation through the remainder of their tenure as a student at WVU at Parkersburg. This sanction will be noted as a Conduct Suspension on the student's official transcript so long as that suspension remains in effect.
- *Expulsion:* Permanent termination of student status and revocation of rights to be on campus for any reason or to attend WVU at Parkersburg-sponsored events. This sanction will be noted permanently as a Conduct Expulsion on the student's official transcript.
- *Withholding Diploma:* WVU at Parkersburg may withhold a student's diploma for a specified period of time and/or deny a student participation in commencement activities if the student has an allegation pending or as a sanction if the student is found responsible for an alleged violation.
- *Revocation of Degree:* WVU at Parkersburg reserves the right to revoke a degree previously awarded from WVU at Parkersburg for fraud, misrepresentation, and/or other violation of WVU at Parkersburg policies, procedures, or directives in obtaining the degree, or for other serious violations committed by a student prior to graduation.
- *Organizational Sanctions:* Deactivation, loss of recognition, loss of some or all privileges (including WVU at Parkersburg registration) for a specified period of time.
- *Other Actions:* In addition to or in place of the above sanctions, WVU at Parkersburg may assign any other sanctions as deemed appropriate.

#### b. Employee Sanctions/Responsive Actions

Responsive actions for an employee who has engaged in harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation include:

- *Warning – Verbal or Written*
- *Performance Improvement Plan/Management Process*
- *Enhanced supervision, observation, or review*
- *Required Counseling*
- *Required Training or Education*
- *Probation*
- *Denial of Pay Increase*
- *Loss of Oversight or Supervisory Responsibility*
- *Demotion*
- *Transfer*
- *Reassignment*
- *Delay of tenure track progress*
- *Assignment to new supervisor*
- *Restriction of stipends and/or professional development resources*
- *Suspension with pay*
- *Suspension without pay*
- *Termination*
- *Other Actions:* In addition to or in place of the above sanctions/responsive actions, WVU at Parkersburg may assign any other responsive actions as deemed appropriate.

## 12. Withdrawal or Resignation While Charges are Pending

**a. Students:** If a student has an allegation pending for violation of the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination, WVU at Parkersburg may place a hold on a student's ability to graduate and/or to receive an official transcript/diploma.

Should a student decide to not participate in the resolution process, the process proceeds absent their participation to a reasonable resolution. Should a student Respondent permanently withdraw from WVU at Parkersburg, the resolution process ends, as WVU at Parkersburg no longer has disciplinary jurisdiction over the withdrawn student.

However, WVU at Parkersburg will continue to address and remedy any systemic issues, variables that may have contributed to the alleged violation(s), and any ongoing effects of the alleged harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation. The student who withdraws or leaves while the process is pending may not return to WVU at Parkersburg. Such exclusion applies to all campuses of WVU at Parkersburg. A hold will be placed on their ability to be readmitted. They may also be barred from WVU at Parkersburg property and/or events.

If the student Respondent only withdraws or takes a leave for a specified period of time (e.g., one semester or term), the resolution process may continue remotely and that student is not permitted to return to WVU at Parkersburg unless and until all sanctions have been satisfied.

**b. Employees:** Should an employee Respondent resign with unresolved allegations pending, the resolution process ends, as WVU at Parkersburg no longer has disciplinary jurisdiction over the resigned employee.

However, WVU at Parkersburg will continue to address and remedy any systemic issues, variables that contributed to the alleged violation(s), and any ongoing effects of the alleged harassment or discrimination.

The employee who resigns with unresolved allegations pending is not eligible for rehire with WVU at Parkersburg or

any campus of WVU at Parkersburg, and the records retained by the Title IX Coordinator and the Human Resources Department will reflect that status.

All WVU at Parkersburg responses to future inquiries regarding employment references for that individual will include that the former employee resigned during a pending disciplinary matter and is not eligible for rehire.

### 13. Appeals

All requests for appeal consideration must be submitted in writing to the Title IX Coordinator within five (5) business days of the delivery of the written finding of the Title IX Coordinator or other Decision-maker. Any party may appeal the findings only under the grounds described below.

An Appeal Officer chosen from the Pool will be designated by the Title IX Coordinator from those who have not been involved in the process previously. Any party may appeal, but appeals are limited to the following grounds:

- 1) A procedural error or omission occurred that significantly impacted the outcome (e.g., material deviation from established procedures, failure to correctly apply the evidentiary standard).
- 2) To consider new evidence, unknown or unavailable during the investigation, that could substantially impact the original finding or sanction. A summary of this new evidence and its potential impact must be included.
- 3) Substantiated bias on the part of Decision-makers, Investigators or Title IX Coordinator.

When any party requests an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator will share the appeal request with the other party(ies) or other appropriate persons such as the Investigator(s), who may file a response within three (3) business days. The other party may also bring their own appeal on separate grounds.

If new grounds are raised, the original appealing party will be permitted to submit a written response to these new grounds within three (3) business days. These responses or appeal requests will be shared with each party. The Appeal Officer will review the appeal request(s) within three (3) business days of completing the pre-appeal exchange of materials. If grounds are not sufficient for an appeal, or the appeal is not timely, the Appeal Officer dismisses the appeal.

When the Appeal Officer finds that at least one of the grounds is met by at least one party, additional principles governing the review of appeals include the following:

- Decisions by the Appeal Officer are to be deferential to the original decision, making changes to the finding only when there is clear error and to the sanction(s)/responsive action(s) only if there is compelling justification to do so.
- Appeals are not intended to be full re-hearings (de novo) of the allegation(s). In most cases, appeals are confined to a review of the written documentation or record of the investigation and pertinent documentation regarding the grounds for appeal.
- An appeal is not an opportunity for the Appeal Officer to substitute their judgment for that of the original Investigator(s) or Title IX Coordinator/Decision-maker merely because they disagree with the finding and/or sanction(s).
- Appeals granted based on new evidence should normally be remanded to the Investigator(s) for reconsideration. Other appeals should be remanded at the discretion of the Appeal Officer.
- Sanctions imposed as the result of Administrative Resolution are implemented immediately unless the Title

IX Coordinator stays their implementation in extraordinary circumstances, pending the outcome of the appeal.

- For students: Graduation, study abroad, internships/ externships, etc., do NOT in and of themselves constitute exigent circumstances, and students may not be able to participate in those activities during their appeal.
- All parties will be informed in writing within five (5) business days of the outcome of the appeal without significant time delay between notifications, and in accordance with the standards for Notice of Outcome as defined above.
- Once an appeal is decided, the outcome is final; further appeals are not permitted, even if a decision or sanction is changed on remand.
- In rare cases when a procedural or substantive error cannot be cured by the original Investigator(s) and/or Title IX Coordinator/Decision-maker (as in cases of bias), the Appeal Chair/Panel may recommend a new investigation and/or Administrative Resolution process, including a new resolution administrator.
- The results of a new Administrative Resolution process can be appealed once, on any of the three applicable grounds for appeals.
- In cases in which the appeal results in Respondent's reinstatement to WVU at Parkersburg or resumption of privileges, all reasonable attempts will be made to restore the Respondent to their prior status, recognizing that some opportunities lost may be irreparable in the short term.

#### 14. Long-Term Remedies/Actions

Following the conclusion of the resolution process, and in addition to any sanctions implemented, the Title IX Coordinator may implement long-term remedies or actions with respect to the parties and/or the campus community to stop the harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation; remedy its effects; and prevent its reoccurrence.

These remedies/actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Referral to counseling and health services
- Referral to the Employee Assistance Program
- Education to the community
- Permanent alteration of work arrangements for employees
- Provision of campus safety escorts
- Climate surveys
- Policy modification
- Implementation of long-term contact limitations between the parties
- Implementation of adjustments to academic deadlines, course schedules, etc.

At the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator, long-term remedies may also be provided to the Complainant even if no policy violation is found.

When no policy violation is found, the Title IX Coordinator will address any remedial requirements offered by WVU at Parkersburg to the Respondent.

#### 15. Failure to Complete Sanctions/Comply with Interim and Long-term Remedies/Responsive Actions

All Respondents are expected to comply with conduct sanctions, responsive actions, and corrective actions within the timeframe specified by the Title IX Coordinator.

Failure to abide by the sanction(s)/action(s) imposed by the date specified, whether by refusal, neglect, or any other reason, may result in additional sanction(s)/responsive/corrective action(s), including suspension, expulsion, and/or termination from WVU at Parkersburg and may be noted on a student's official transcript.

A suspension will only be lifted when compliance is achieved to the satisfaction of the Title IX Coordinator.

## **16. Recordkeeping**

In implementing this policy, records of all allegations, investigations, resolutions, and hearings will be kept indefinitely, or as required by state or federal law or institutional policy, by the Title IX Coordinator.

## **17. Disabilities Accommodation in the Resolution Process**

WVU at Parkersburg is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and support to qualified students, employees, or others with disabilities to ensure equal access to WVU at Parkersburg's resolution process.

Any student needing such accommodations or support should contact the Executive Director of Student Support Services, and any employee should contact the Executive Director of Human Resources. The respective Executive Director will review the request and, in consultation with the person requesting the accommodation and the Title IX Coordinator, determine which accommodations are appropriate and necessary for full participation in the process.