

From: Natalie Raps
Date: Sat, 10 Mar 2012 15:55:25 -0500
To: Jim Blair
Subject: Request for Feedback from the SA

Dear Mr. Blair,

Below please find the amalgamated responses from the Student Assembly regarding the Title IX changes. I will be unable to make most of the meeting so I am sending an SA representative, Peter Scelfo, to present. Thank you and please let me know if there is anything else that I can do.

Best,
Natalie Raps

The following concerns, comments and suggestions are on behalf of the Cornell Student Assembly.

On March 1st 2012 The University Assembly Chair, Melissa Lukasiewicz, presented the changes the Codes and Judicial Committee proposed and the changes the University Assembly approved.

Many of the concerns of the Student Assembly Representatives have pertain to the lowering of the standard of evidence. While their concerns are warranted because of the natural inclination to think the lower standard could lead to false accusation, the letter administered by the Office of Civil Rights clearly mandates this action and many assembly members agree with the change, as does the Women's Resource Center, a by-line funded organization. False accusation will be prevented by, cross analyzation and the reduced stress the changes will cause.

Assembly members were concerned with the consequences of being found guilty and its lasting effects. Though it is know consequences will be on a case by case bases Members want the consequences to be explicitly outlined, and whether or not the charge would be present and or create a federal criminal record or if the charge would remain solely on their campus record. This concern is rooted in from the fact that a sexual harassment charge has the potential to remove future opportunities.

The final concern of the Student Assembly is the possibility that the hearing board could be completely comprised of more experienced faculty and staff. If, by chance, the composition of the board took the aforementioned shape the connection and understanding that a peer would offer would not be present, which could potentially lead to unrevealed truths. The Assembly understands that having an undergraduate on the board is inappropriate, however at least one member of the board should be near in age to both the accused and the complainant.

The Student Assembly suggests an advertisement campaign with particular attention to the Greek community and residence halls to help students understand the removal of boundaries to press charges, and the accessibility this program offers allowing students to know they are protected when and if they need to press charges.

The Student Assembly is looking forward to continue working with the University Assembly with the revision of the Campus Code and University Policy 6.4.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Student Assembly

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