



**Stockton University Student Senate**  
**Resolution SP18-003:**  
**Recommendation to Change Sexual Assault Policy and Promote Students' Victim Support and Resiliency Services**

- Whereas,** the Student Senate is the elected voice of the approximately 9,000 students who attend Stockton University; and,
- Citing,** a petition that was created and published by Stockton's Fall 2017 Perspectives on Women class, GAH 2358-001, asking the University to take action to support sexual assault victims and has more than 7,300 signatures; and,
- Recognizing,** the Student Senate has been called on by the petition's organizers to convey the concerns addressed in the petition to the administration; and,
- Emphasizing,** that sexual assault and gender-based violence is one of the most common, yet underreported crimes on college campuses, creating a need for confidential and safe resources for victims of sexual assault; and,
- Recalling,** the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter issued by the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, which outlined a clear framework and policy for publicly-funded institutions to follow when handling reports of sexual assault and gender-based crimes, has been withdrawn; and,
- Acknowledging,** that the University must continue to follow current Title IX guidelines, including the interim measures issued by the Department of Education in September 2017 as well as future Title IX guidance documents; and,
- Concerned,** that the University has not properly promoted and maintained victim support and resiliency services on campus, such as the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Center, which provides essential resources to victims of sexual assault; and,
- Confident,** that making the changes recommended on the following pages will not have an adverse effect on, nor ignore or violate the due process rights of the students, faculty, and staff of Stockton University;
- Be it Resolved,** the Senate supports the proposals drafted by the Fall 2017 Perspectives on Women class which are outlined and clarified in the pages below, including asking the University to recommit to the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter and promoting and maintaining victim support and resiliency services;
- Be it Further Resolved,** the Stockton University Student Senate hereby submits this request to President Kesselman, Cabinet Members, and the Board of Trustees.
- Calling Upon,** the administration to address these points by February 16, 2018.

**President Victoria Dambroski**

**Vice President Stephanie Hanvey**

## Recommendation to Recommit to the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter

1. Stockton University policy should distinctly state that the University will continue to abide by the guidelines set forth in the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter<sup>1</sup> issued by the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”) when handling allegations of sexual assault where possible under the current law and under the interim guidelines issued by the OCR in September 2017<sup>2</sup> or any other follow-up document that outlines new Title IX guidelines. A link to all necessary documents should also be clearly provided. Specific guidelines that should be followed include:
  - a. A 60-day timeframe for good-faith investigations of sexual assault by the University unless asked to discontinue further investigation by a police department or other authoritative body investigating the allegations.
  - b. Mediation and/or other forms of informal resolution will not be used for cases of sexual assault, hostile environment, and/or other violent crimes.
2. The following changes and/or additions to Stockton University’s *Resource Guide on Title IX: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct*<sup>3</sup> should be made:
  - a. A bullet point defining Stockton’s commitment to following the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter should be added to the “Stockton’s Commitment” section
  - b. Appropriate changes should be made to “Part IV: Administrative Response Protocol to Reports of Sexual Misconduct”<sup>4</sup> and “Part V: Title IX Investigations and Criminal Investigations in Sexual Violence Cases”<sup>5</sup> so that administrative response and investigation protocol is in compliance with the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter, including the 60 day timeframe for investigations.
3. The Stockton University *Sexual Assault Policy*<sup>6</sup> should be altered to clearly state the University will follow the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter where possible under the current law and under the interim guidelines.
4. Stockton University should take any other steps and/or necessary procedural and policy changes to make the recommendations stated in #1 official Stockton University policy. These changes must also be clearly and distinctly stated in all related and supporting documents, similarly to the changes advised in #2 and #3.
5. A public statement should be released from the Office of the President affirming that Stockton University remains committed to the safety and wellbeing of its students and will continue to handle allegations of sexual assault and gender-based violence in accordance to the withdrawn 2011 Dear Colleague Letter in addition to Title IX, the Clery Act, and other legal documents that outline Title IX requirements and procedures, such as the interim Title IX guidelines released in September 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> Archived PDF link to the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter:

[https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/dear\\_colleague\\_sexual\\_violence.pdf](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/dear_colleague_sexual_violence.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Interim Measures issued in September 2017: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-title-ix-201709.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The “Stockton’s Commitment” section can be found on page 2 of Stockton’s *Resource Guide on Title IX: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct*: [https://stockton.edu/diversity/title-ix/documents/title\\_ix.pdf](https://stockton.edu/diversity/title-ix/documents/title_ix.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> “Part IV: Administrative Response Protocol to Reports of Sexual Misconduct” can be found on pages 12-15 of the University’s *Resource Guide on Title IX: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct*

<sup>5</sup> “Part V: Title IX Investigations and Criminal Investigations in Sexual Violence Cases” can be found on pages 15 and 16 of the University’s *Resource Guide on Title IX: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct*

<sup>6</sup> The Stockton University Sexual Assault Policy:

<http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/signals/content/docs/Sexual%20Assault%20Policy.pdf>

## Maintaining and Promoting Accessible, Safe Resources for Victims of Sexual Assault

1. Stockton's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Center, all of its programs, activities, and other resources, is currently being staffed and ran by a single employee housed in Counseling Services' office. In addition to creating a new space for the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Center ("WGS Center"), which is currently being planned, increased resources must be allocated to the WGS Center to properly meet the needs of Stockton students. This should include a full-time staff member who would aid the current WGS Center Director in supporting and running the WGS Center, such as staffing the 24/7 crisis hotline for victims of sexual assault that is currently operating through Stockton's WGS Center. This staff member should not be shared amongst various Stockton University departments and, if they are an internal hire, their old position is to be filled in a timely manner.
2. The number for Stockton University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Center's 24/7 crisis hotline for sexual assault<sup>7</sup> should be promoted to students in the following ways:
  - a. Added to the SIGNALS Sexual Assault Safe Reporting Places webpage<sup>8</sup>
  - b. Added to the Sexual Assault Policy under "Safe Places to Report Allegations of Sexual Assault"
  - c. Added to the "To Report Sexual Misconduct" section of the University's *Resource Guide on Title IX: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct* as one of the "On-Campus Confidential Safe Places"<sup>9</sup>
  - d. Added to the Stockton University Office for Institutional Diversity and Equity's On-Campus Confidential Places to Report Sexual Misconduct document<sup>10</sup>
  - e. Added to the back of Stockton Osprey (ID) cards
  - f. This number should be promoted in any additional, appropriate ways so that Stockton students have access to the resources available to them
  - g. It should be specified in all changes that Stockton residential students are encouraged to utilize Stockton's crisis line number, while the Atlantic County Women's Center's crisis line number is a more effective resource for non-residential students and for incidents that occur off-campus. These changes/additions should explicitly state that the number is for Stockton University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Center's 24/7 sexual assault crisis hotline.
3. The "Women's Center | 24 Hour Crisis Hotline" number listed as a Local Resource under the "To Report Sexual Misconduct" section of the University's *Resource Guide on Title IX: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct* should be updated to read "**Atlantic County** Women's Center | 24 Hour Crisis Hotline" so that there is no confusion between Stockton's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Center's crisis hotline and the Atlantic County Women's Center's crisis hotline.

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<sup>7</sup> The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Center's 24/7 Sexual Assault Crisis Hotline: (609) 849-8473, as found on <https://stockton.edu/wellness-center/wgsc/>

<sup>8</sup> SIGNALS Reporting Resources: <http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=276&pageID=22>

<sup>9</sup> The "On-Campus Confidential Safe Places" section can be found on page 8 of the University's *Resource Guide on Title IX: Sex Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct*

<sup>10</sup> Stockton University Office for Institutional Diversity and Equity's On-Campus Confidential Places to Report Sexual Misconduct document: <https://stockton.edu/diversity/title-ix/documents/revvohsexualassaultvictimrightsconfidentialplaces.pdf>