Continuing education related to Title IX: End the silence.

IX on IX Newsletter at Wells College

2018-2019 Title IX Team

Each year all RAs, Campus Life Staff members, various faculty, and staff are trained to help community members. Below are the names of those individuals that can assist with taking a report, accessing medical or mental health services, advising through an investigation, and reviewing an appeal.

Where to go to make a report:

Wells College encourages all individuals to seek assistance from a medical provider and/or law enforcement immediately after an incident of sexual misconduct. This is the best option to ensure preservation of evidence and to begin a timely investigative and remedial response.

Wells College encourages all individuals to make a report to the College, and to local law enforcement. Reporting options are not mutually exclusive. Both internal and criminal reports may be pursued simultaneously. Every individual making a report to the College is notified verbally that, “You have the right to make a report to Campus Safety, Local Law Enforcement, and/or State Police or choose not to report; to report the incident to Wells; to be protected by Wells from retaliation for reporting the incident; and to receive assistance and resources from Wells.”

The College is committed to supporting students, faculty, and staff throughout this process, and encourages all individuals or third party witnesses to report any incident to the College.

The following individuals are available should you wish to make a report:

Resident Advisors (RAs)
Campus Life Professional Staff – Emily Burt, Angela Guzman, Hailey Uribe, Latesha Fussell
Campus Safety – Anthony Pluretti
Title IX Coordinator – Kit Van Orman
Anonymous Reporting: Any individual may make an anonymous report concerning an act of sexual misconduct. An individual may report the incident without disclosing their name, identifying the Respondent, or requesting any action. Depending on the extent of information available about the incident or the individuals involved, the College’s response may be limited. The Anonymous Reporting Form can be found by following this link.

For more, visit: http://www.wells.edu/title-ix
To submit questions, comments or suggestions: IXonIXQ&A

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Who are the Investigators?

Should an individual wish to move forward with an investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will designate a team of two investigators, with specific training on investigating allegations of sexual misconduct. The investigators will conduct the investigation in a manner appropriate in light of the circumstances of the case and begins with an interview with the Complainant. The investigators will then contact the Respondent with a notice describing date, time, location, and factual allegations concerning the violation; a reference to the specific code of conduct provisions alleged to have been violated, including possible sanctions; and give the opportunity to offer evidence during the investigation. The interviews will be supplemented by the gathering of any physical, documentary, or other evidence. As part of the investigation, the College will provide an opportunity for the parties to present witnesses and other evidence. The investigation is designed to provide a fair and reliable gathering of facts. The investigation will be thorough, impartial and fair, and all individuals will be treated with appropriate sensitivity and respect. The following individuals are trained investigators:

Latesha Fussell – Director of Campus Life for Diversity & Inclusion
Hailey Uribe – Director of Student Activities & Leadership
Daniel Renfrow – Associate Professor – Sociology
Angela Guzman – Residence Hall Director
Kelly Siegfried – Database Administrator
Michele Vollmer – Director, Advancement Services
Tara Ruckh – Head Women’s Basketball Coach
Jessica Carter – Assistant Director – Annual Fund
Melinda Slawson – Admissions Counselor
Emily Burt – Director of Residence Life & Student Conduct; Deputy Title IX Coordinator

Who are available Advisors?

The Complainant and Respondent may choose to be assisted by an advisor. The Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator maintain a list of campus community members who have undergone Title IX training and are available to act as advisors. The Complainant and/or Respondent may choose as an advisor a person not a member of the college community. The advisor may accompany the Complainant or Respondent to any College investigative, administrative, or adjudicative meeting. The advisor may not make statements, objections, or arguments but may consult quietly with the party. The advisor will not have access to the case file or the results of the findings in the case, unless shared by the Complainant or Respondent. The following are trained Advisors:

Marian Brown – Director of the Center of Sustainability & Environment
Breton Bienvenue – Educational Technology Coordinator
Sarah Markowitz – Associate professor – Psychology
Christina Schmidt – Assistant Professor – Biology
Deb Gagnon- Professor – Psychology

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Who are on the Appeals Panel?

Either party, Complainant or Respondent, may appeal the outcome of the investigation to the appeals panel comprised of three members of the Wells Community who have been trained in Title IX and the College’s appeal process. The appeals panel will be called together at the request of the Title IX Coordinator. The parties will be given equal access to review any party or witness statements and the investigatory report, to the extent allowed or required by FERPA. Appeals are not intended to be full reinvestigation of the complaint. In most cases, appeals are confined to a review of the written documentation collected in the investigation, and pertinent documentation regarding the grounds for appeal. The following are trained members of the appeals panel:

Cindy Speaker – Provost and Dean of the College
Mike Lindberg – Athletic Director
Carol Henderson – Library Director
Scott Heinekamp – Professor-Physics
Patti Goebel – Assistant Professor – Theater
Andrew Warren – Network Specialist

Senior Investigator Matt Stegner will be on campus once a month!!

Matt is part of the NYS Governor’s Campus Sexual Assault Victims Unit and will be in the Dining Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Due to Fall break, his next visit will be on November 13th from 11:30am – 1:30pm. Be sure to stop by and say hi!

I need help, where do I start?

Emily Burt or Kit Van Orman can work with you for housing, classes, and no contact orders. We’ll check in about how you’re doing, but this does not mean an investigation will happen.

Title IX Coordinator – Kit: kit@wells.edu    Deputy Title IX Coordinator-Emily: eburt@wells.edu

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