

Resolution on Importance of Anonymous Reporting for Graduate and Professional Student Harassment

The Graduate and Professional Student Council, General Assembly

WHEREAS 2% of male graduate and professional students and 7% of female graduate and professional students reported being a victim of sexual assault since enrolling at Duke per the [Duke Student Experience Survey](#); and

WHEREAS 41% of male-identifying graduate and professional students and 52% of female-identifying graduate and professional students don't understand Duke's procedure for responding to sexual assault and procedures for reporting per the [Duke Student Experience Survey](#); and

WHEREAS a majority of graduate and professional student women do not report sexual assault to an official per the [Duke Student Experience Survey](#); and

WHEREAS there exists a present state in which graduate and professional students must navigate complicated reporting processes depending on who the respondent is, including the Duke Office of Student Conduct and the Office for Institutional Equity, which includes responding without a formal complaint through the informal resolution process, a complaint going through the informal procedure, and a complaint going through the formal procedure; and

WHEREAS responses to the survey, "Feedback on Duke's Reporting Culture", conducted by Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) from 2016 that indicate over 40% of survey participants answered yes to "Have you ever felt victimized/mistreated?"; and

WHEREAS the WiSE survey responses show that only 6% of survey participants would be willing to report behavior of the person or people who made the survey respondent feel victimized to their Director of Graduate Studies, 11% to their advisor, and 7% to another faculty member in their home department; and

WHEREAS short-form answers of the WiSE survey, indications were made that students did not report victimizing behavior due to: fear of not being able to graduate, not being supported in general and by their advisor, and the reporting process not being worth the time and effort; and

WHEREAS graduate and professional students identify the respondent as a faculty member more than four times as often as undergraduate students, and that the relationship to the respondent is identified as teacher or advisor more than three times as often than undergraduates per the [AAU Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct](#); and

WHEREAS the [national recognition](#) of more than half of sexual harassment cases involving faculty harassers are serial harassers; and

WHEREAS there is an understanding of the associated [fear with reporting](#) problematic behavior of general harassment, discriminatory harassment, and sexual harassment; and

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL

1. Urges the Duke Administration to understand the drastic under-reporting of general harassment, discriminatory harassment, and sexual harassment of graduate and professional students that is likely occurring; and
2. Urges the Duke Administration to understand graduate and professional students' distrust of faculty in their departments due to fear of repercussions from reporting; and
3. Urges the Duke Administration to consider the emotional, psychological, and potentially career altering weight of going through formal reporting channels through the Office for Institutional Equity, Office of Student Conduct, or police; and
4. Urges the Duke Administration to understand the underutilization of current resources due to lack of publicity, addressing this issue by working with the graduate and professional student population; and
5. Urges the Duke Administration to widely advertise the existing processes for reporting harassment of graduate and professional students by submitting an anonymous report through confidential services, CareNetwork Report through DukeReach, or anonymously contacting the relevant office, realizing that adjudication may not result from anonymous reports, but serial offenders may be identified through this method; and
6. Urges the Duke Administration, the Office for Institutional Equity, and the Office of Student Conduct to act swiftly in adopting a formal database of such anonymous reports in order to track reported individuals over years and publicly committing to this effort; to not only serve the community as soon as possible, but also to generate a viable and long-lasting mechanism for measuring the outcomes of the Duke IDEAL within the graduate and professional student population.

Introduced by Jacqueline Robinson-Hamm, General Assembly representative for Biomedical Engineering

How to submit an anonymous report

- You can contact a confidential service and have them fill out an anonymous report for you. Confidential services include the [Women's Center](#), [Counseling and Psychological Services](#), [Student Health](#), the [student ombudsperson](#), or clergy.
- You may contact the relevant office (Student Conduct or Office for Institutional Equity) and not share your name to report anonymously.
- You may fill out a DukeReach CareNetwork report: https://duke-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/index.php/pid294286?
If the above link is inactive please find an active link at the [DukeReach homepage](#).
You can choose not to include your name when submitting a CareReport.

Note that in all instances complainants do not have to partake in any process conducted by the Office of Student Conduct or Office for Institutional Equity.