



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, REGION I

5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3921

Peter H. Tsaffaras, Esquire  
President  
Quincy College  
Saville Hall 106  
1250 Hancock Street  
Quincy Center, MA 02169

MAY 20 2012

Re: Complaint No. 01-12-2048  
Quincy College

Dear President Tsaffaras:

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is opening for investigation the above-referenced complaint filed on March 7, 2012, against Quincy College (College). In the above-referenced complaint, the Complainant specifically alleges that the College failed to promptly and equitably respond to the Student's report of sexual assault in the spring semester of 2011. Though the College removed the accused from campus, it failed to consider appropriate interim measures and remedies for the Student that would allow her to feel safe in continuing to access her education at the College or inform her of her rights under Title IX. The complaint alleges the College does not have a functioning Title IX Coordinator or adequate grievance procedure for addressing complaints of sex discrimination.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Title IX), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. The College is subject to the requirements of Title IX because it receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Based on the information presented, OCR will investigate the following legal issues:


- 1.) Whether the College failed to designate one or more employees to coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX and its implementing regulation; and whether the University failed to notify students, employees, and interested parties of such a designation, in violation of 34 C.F.R. Section 106.8(a);
- 2.) Whether the College failed to adopt and publish grievance procedures that provide for a prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of sex discrimination, in violation of 34 C.F.R. Section 106.8(b); and
- 3.) Whether the College failed to respond to the Student's report of sexual assault in a prompt and equitable manner, in violation of 34 C.F.R. Sections 106.8(a), 106.31(a) and (b).

Please note that opening this complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to the merits of the allegations. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and dispositive of the allegations, in accordance with the provisions of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*, which can be found online at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.html>. For your information, we have also included an explanation of OCR's complaint processing procedures.

In order to assist us in the resolution of this complaint, we ask that the College submit a response to the enclosed data request within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of this letter. OCR's authority to gather information and conduct an investigation is set forth at 34 C.F.R. Sections 100.6(b) and (c) and 100.7(c) of the regulation implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which is incorporated by reference into the Title IX regulation at 34 C.F.R. Section 106.71.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Civil Rights Investigator Molly O'Halloran at (617) 289-0058 or [Molly.O'Halloran@ed.gov](mailto:Molly.O'Halloran@ed.gov), or Civil Rights Attorney Amy Hunter at (617) 289-0057 or [Amy.Hunter@ed.gov](mailto:Amy.Hunter@ed.gov). You may also contact me at (617) 289-0045.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Montalvo  
Compliance Team Leader

Enclosures