



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

500 WEST MADISON ST., SUITE 1475  
CHICAGO, IL 60661-4544

REGION V  
ILLINOIS  
INDIANA  
IOWA  
MINNESOTA  
NORTH DAKOTA  
WISCONSIN

March 20, 2014

Dr. Richard E. Helton  
President  
Vincennes University  
1002 N. First Street  
Vincennes, IN 47591

Re: OCR Docket # 05-14-2334

Dear Dr. Helton:

This is to notify you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has received and evaluated the above-referenced complaint filed with OCR on March 7, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) against Vincennes University (University) alleging discrimination on the basis of sex. We conducted the evaluation in accordance with OCR's *Case Processing Manual* (CPM) to determine whether to open the complaint for investigation. We have determined that we have the authority to investigate this complaint.

Specifically, the complaint alleges that the University subjected a female undergraduate student (Student A) to discrimination based on sex in the (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) academic year. The complaint raises whether the University fails to promptly and equitably respond to complaints, reports and/or incidents of sexual violence of which it had notice, including Student A's report of sexual assault committed against her by a male student (Student B), thereby creating for students a sexually hostile environment.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. § 1681, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 106. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient of Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department, the District is subject to this law. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

Because OCR has determined that it has jurisdiction and that the complaint was filed timely, it is opening this allegation for investigation. Please note that opening the allegation for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with

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regard to its merit. 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 is dispositive of the allegation, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the CPM.

OCR offers, when appropriate, an Early Complaint Resolution (ECR) process to facilitate the voluntary resolution of complaints by providing an early opportunity for the parties involved to resolve the allegation. Some information about the ECR process is in the enclosure to this letter.

In addition, when appropriate, a complaint may be resolved before the conclusion of an investigation after the recipient asks OCR to resolve the complaint. In such cases, a resolution agreement signed by the recipient and submitted to OCR must be aligned with the complaint allegation or the information obtained during the investigation and it must be consistent with applicable regulations. Information about this is in the enclosure to this letter.

Please read the enclosed document entitled “OCR Complaint Processing Procedures,” which includes information about:

- OCR’s complaint processing procedures, including the availability of ECR;
- Regulatory prohibitions against retaliation and intimidation of persons who file complaints with OCR or participate in an OCR investigation; and
- Application of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act to OCR investigations.

OCR intends to conduct a prompt investigation of this complaint. The regulation implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(b) and (c), requires that a recipient of Federal financial assistance make available to OCR information that may be pertinent to a compliance determination. This requirement is incorporated by reference in the Title IX regulation at 34 C.F.R. § 106.71. Pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 100.6(c) and 34 C.F.R. § 99.31(a)(3)(iii), of the regulation implementing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, OCR may review personally identifiable records without regard to considerations of privacy or confidentiality.

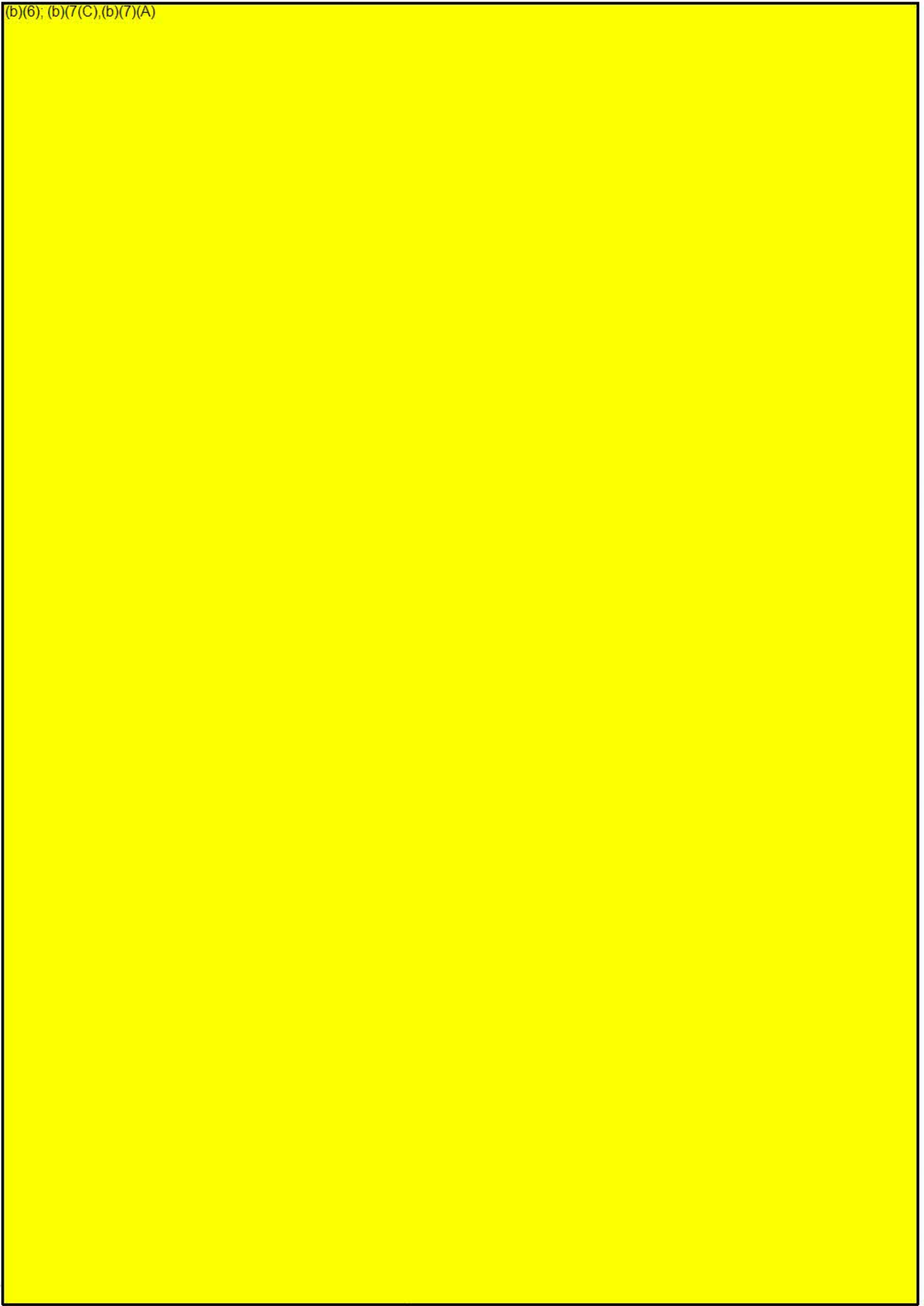
Accordingly, OCR is requesting that you provide the following information to us within fifteen (15) calendar days. Wherever possible, please provide the requested information in electronic format. If responsive data are available through the Internet, please provide the link to the data.

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(A)

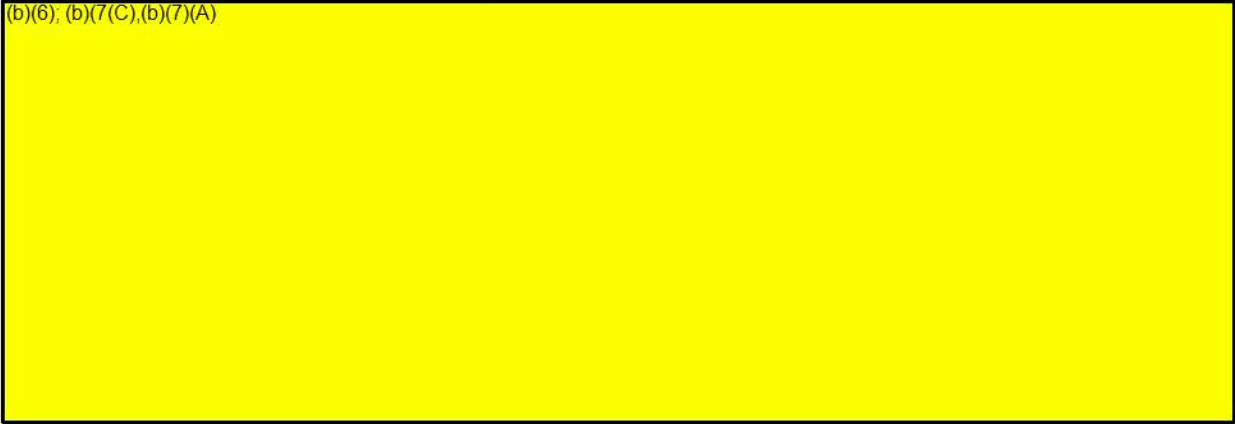
(b)(6); (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(A)



(b)(6); (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(A)



(b)(6); (b)(7)(C);(b)(7)(A)

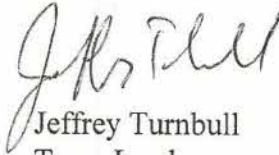


Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. In addition to the information requested above, OCR may need to request additional information and interview pertinent personnel. If an on-site visit is necessary, we will work to schedule a mutually convenient time for the visit.

Please notify OCR of the name, address, and telephone number of the person who will serve as the University's contact person during the processing of this complaint. We would like to talk with this person as soon as possible to discuss the processing of this complaint and we will, at that time, identify Student A and Student B.

OCR is committed to prompt and effective service. If you have any questions, please contact Salina Gamboa, Equal Opportunity Specialist, at 312-730-1627 or by email at [Salina.Gamboa@ed.gov](mailto:Salina.Gamboa@ed.gov).

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Turnbull  
Team Leader

Enclosure