

October 30, 2018

Consensual Relationship Policy Task Force

Jamelle Sharpe, Law, *Chair*
Justin Brown, Student Conflict Resolution
Ben Holden, Media
Danielle Morrison, Title IX
Terry Ostler, Social Work
Scott Rice, Legal
Claire Sharples Brooks, Access and Equity
Alexis Thompson, Graduate College
Lesley Wexler, Law
Steve Zimmerman, Liberal Arts and Sciences
Kaylee Hahn, Graduate Student
Natalie O'Callaghan, Undergraduate Student
Sharon Reynolds, Provost's Office, *ex officio*

Dear Colleagues,

Each of us is aware of the harmful and deeply concerning influence unwelcome behavior has on individual well-being and educational achievement. National debates have pointed to the inherent power asymmetry between faculty and students that can obscure consent and raise questions about what truly constitutes a consensual relationship between a faculty member and a student. The change in the higher education policy landscape requires us to re-consider the appropriate regulation of conduct as it relates to institutional mission, power dynamics, and individual choice.

In light of these concerns, I ask the committee to evaluate the University's policies regulating consensual relationships between faculty and students. The committee should consider whether the campus ought to have additional policies specifically regulating these relationships; if so, what those policies should be; and where should they reside.

I anticipate that the committee will meet throughout the spring semester and, perhaps, into fall 2019 if the work is not yet complete.

Professor Jamelle Sharpe will serve as Chair. Recently, Professor Sharpe served as a Provost Fellow, where he prepared a comprehensive report benchmarking the institutional policies of our peers and summarizing recent trends. I encourage the task force members to build on Professor Sharpe's work as you develop recommendations for our campus.

I look forward to your recommendations, and I thank you for your willingness to participate in this important effort.

Sincerely,



Andreas Cangelaris
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost