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Office of the Chancellor



August 20, 2014

As we begin the fall semester, I want to share my commitment to creating a living, learning, and working environment on our campus that is free from all types of sexual misconduct and relationship violence. This includes sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Sexual misconduct and relationship violence will not be tolerated and will be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including permanent dismissal from the university and termination of employment.

I strongly encourage survivors of sexual misconduct or relationship violence to promptly report the incident to the Title IX coordinator, the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), or the UT Police Department.

Reporting an incident to the university does not obligate you to pursue university discipline or criminal prosecution. You can find contact information for reporting options and confidential resources on a new website our campus has developed to provide one place you can go for information on policies, complaint procedures, and resources regarding sexual misconduct and relationship violence: sexualassault.utk.edu.

In addition, our campus has adopted an interim policy that clearly addresses prohibited conduct for students and employees, reporting options, confidential resources, and other issues relating to sexual misconduct and relationship violence. A copy of the [interim policy can be found here](#).

I will appoint a Sexual Misconduct Task Force to review the interim policy and provide feedback on its clarity, quality, and effectiveness. The task force will be composed of students, faculty, and staff who have an interest

and/or expertise in the issues of sexual misconduct or relationship violence. Our Title IX coordinator, Jenny Richter, will chair the task force. A list of members of the Sexual Misconduct Task Force will be posted on the sexual assault website. Meetings of the task force will be announced at sexualassault.utk.edu and will be open to all members of the campus community. You may also direct feedback or questions to Jenny Richter at oed@utk.edu or 865-974-2498.

The interim policy is effective today and will remain in effect until a permanent version of the policy is issued. This will take place after representatives of relevant stakeholders, including the Sexual Misconduct Task Force, have had a reasonable opportunity to review and provide feedback on the interim policy.

Under the new interim policy, certain university employees designated as “responsible employees” who receive notice of an incident of sexual misconduct or relationship violence must report the incident to the Title IX coordinator, a deputy Title IX coordinator, or the SART.

I encourage each of you to become familiar with the interim policy and the website. Our first priority is to prevent sexual misconduct and relationship violence. However, we have a responsibility to increase awareness about reporting options, confidential resources, complaint procedures, and other available options if sexual misconduct or relationship violence occurs. We are also committed to appropriate training for faculty and staff.

All of these steps strengthen our commitment to creating a safe environment for our campus community. Thank you in advance for your concern and feedback.

Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor

CONTACT US
The University of Tennessee
Office of the Chancellor
527 Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0184
E-mail: chancellor@utk.edu

Phone: 865-974-3265 | Fax: 865-974-4811

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