1986 Letter from Judy Webster to Sylvia Talmage re Concerns about Date Rape on Campus

Commission for Women

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The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Commission for Women

February 10, 1986

Ms. Sylvia Talmage

Dear Ms. Talmage:

I am writing in response to your letter of November 23, 1985 addressed to the UTK Commission for Women. First, I would like to apologize for the delay in responding, but your letter did not reach me until after the end of Fall Quarter. Early in January, I met with members of CFW to discuss the concerns which you had brought to our attention. After that meeting, I contacted Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Phillip A. Scheurer who quickly arranged to have the adult magazines moved to the last row on the display rack. I checked in the lobby shop this week and the magazines have been moved.

With regard to your concerns about date rape on campus, let me assure you that we share your alarm. Subsequent to my receipt of your letter, I discussed this issue with Dr. Jerry Askew, our new Dean of Students, and was assured by him that he has already begun to take steps to address this threat to the welfare of our students, faculty, and staff. More specifically, Dr. Askew included a discussion on date rape in the fall Greek Leadership Workshop which was attended by approximately 300 fraternity and sorority members in early November. The discussion was lead by a representative of the Knoxville Rape Crisis Center and received high marks from those attending. Follow-up sessions with individual fraternities/sororities will be scheduled as requested. Additionally, Dean Askew has instructed his staff in the Office of Student Conduct to vigorously pursue any allegation of date rape and, in fact, one case is currently pending in which the University is recommending that two students be suspended from the institution indefinitely as a result of their involvement in a date rape incident. Finally, Dean Askew has discussed the issue of date rape with all the department heads in his area in order to begin sensitizing them to the presence of this ongoing threat. It is my understanding that similar efforts are taking place in the residence halls as well. I am confident that Dean Askew would welcome any suggestions that you might have in this regard.

Thank you for your interest and concern in women's issues on the UTK Campus. Perhaps you would like to visit with the Commission at one
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of its future meetings. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at noon in the University Center and visitors are welcome. Please check the daily listings of meetings in the University Center for our room assignment.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Judy Webster
Chair, Commission for Women

cc: Denise Harvey
CFW Advisory Committee Members