

Looking Ahead to the New Federal Title IX Regulations

November 15, 2019

As you may have heard, the federal government is preparing to release new regulations regarding Title IX, the law that prevents sex-based discrimination and harassment at K-12 schools, colleges, and universities. This is a big deal: the government hasn't released Title IX regulations since 1975, and the regulations could have a major impact on the way all educational institutions address sexual misconduct issues.

Reports indicate that the new regulations may be published in the coming weeks, perhaps as soon as Thanksgiving. Once the new regulations are released, there will be some window of time in which educational institutions, including St. Mary's College, will revise their policies and procedures to ensure compliance. We don't know exactly what the regulations will include, but we expect that they may impose new requirements for Title IX investigations and hearings.

Here on campus, our Title IX Team – which is composed of staff members from Student Affairs, Public Safety, the Wellness Center, Human Resources, and Athletics, as well as the College's attorney – has already begun working to prepare for the new regulations. We are conferring with professional associations and colleagues across the country as we all await these changes.

Once the regulations are released, we will move swiftly to bring the community together to discuss their impact and meaning for our campus. Through open meetings, SGA visits, and other means we will educate folks about what's going on and where we'll go from there.

We will determine whether and how we need to revise our policies and procedures, and the timeline in which we must do so. We will also create opportunities for you to make your voice heard through that process. Our campus Title IX efforts are guided by the federal Title IX regulations as well as Maryland state laws, applicable federal and state court decisions, and The St. Mary's Way and our ethos as a community.

As a campus we are working to maintain a culture of respect, prevention, and responsibility. I am deeply grateful to the Title IX Team and to our partners across campus, among students, faculty, and staff, as we unite to advance this essential work.

Thanks for reading and I welcome your ideas and questions.

Sincerely,



Michael K. Dunn
Director of Title IX Compliance and Training/Title IX Coordinator