



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

50 BEALE ST., SUITE 7200
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

REGION IX
CALIFORNIA

MAR 08 2016

C. L. Max Nikias
President
Office of the President
ADM-110, MC 0012
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089

(In reply, please refer to case no. 09-16-2128.)

Dear President Nikias:

On (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 2016, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint, filed by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) against the University of Southern California (University). OCR understands his allegations as follows:

- The University discriminated against the complainant on the basis of sex when it failed to provide him a prompt and equitable response to a sexual harassment/assault complaint filed against him and to a sexual harassment/assault complaint he filed against a fellow student; and
- The University subjected him to different treatment on the basis of sex when he was denied counseling for sexual trauma at the Center of Women and Men.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in programs and activities operated by recipients of Federal financial assistance. The University receives funds from the Department and is subject to laws and regulations enforced by OCR.

We have determined that the allegations stated above are appropriate for investigation under the laws enforced by OCR. OCR will proceed with resolution of the complaint.

Because OCR has determined that it has jurisdiction and that the complaint was filed timely or qualified for a waiver of the timeliness requirement, it is opening these allegations for investigation. Please note that opening the allegations for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to their merits. 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 allegations, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the *Case Processing Manual*.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Enclosed is a copy of the OCR Case Processing Procedures. We will contact you or your designated representative soon to discuss the allegations, and the complaint resolution process, including any request for data. OCR may close this complaint prior to making formal findings of compliance or non-compliance, provided that the circumstances or information gathered establishes an administrative or other basis for resolution in accordance with the *Case Processing Manual*.

OCR routinely advises recipients of Federal funds and public education entities that Federal regulations prohibit intimidation, harassment or retaliation against those filing complaints with OCR and those participating in the complaint resolution process. Complainants and participants who feel that such actions have occurred may file a separate complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related records upon request. In the event that OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

Your cooperation is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 415-486-5555.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Love
Program Manager

Enclosures

Cc: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Associate General Counsel, Litigation