



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

1999 BRYAN ST., SUITE 1620
DALLAS, TX 75201-6810

REGION VI
ARKANSAS
LOUISIANA
MISSISSIPPI
TEXAS

December 11, 2014

(b)(7)(C)

RE: OCR Complaint 06-11-2126
Southern Methodist University

Dear (b)(7)(C)

Enclosed please find the disposition of the complaint you filed on June 2, 2011, against Southern Methodist University (SMU or the University) with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), alleging discrimination on the basis of sex/gender. OCR received three complaints between June 2011 and March 2013 alleging gender harassment, sexual harassment, and/or sexual assault. The complainants alleged that the University failed to promptly and equitably respond to complaints of gender harassment, sexual harassment, and sexual violence of which it had notice, including the students' reports of gender harassment and sexual assault; and, as a result, students, including the students who filed two of the three complaints, were subjected to a hostile environment.

We explain the basis for OCR's findings concerning all three complaints in the enclosed letter to the University. In the letter, you are referred to as "Complainant 1." The names of students and other parties also were not used in the letter in order to protect individuals' privacy.

On November 16, 2014, OCR entered into a resolution agreement (Agreement) with the University to resolve the identified compliance concerns in all three complaints. Enclosed is a copy for your information. OCR will monitor the implementation of the Agreement. If the University fails to implement the Agreement, OCR may initiate administrative enforcement or judicial proceedings to enforce the specific terms and obligations of the Agreement. Before initiating administrative enforcement (34 C.F.R. §§ 100.9, 100.10), or judicial proceedings to enforce the Agreement, OCR shall give the University written notice of the alleged breach and a minimum of sixty (60) calendar days to cure the alleged breach.

This concludes OCR's investigation of your complaint and should not be interpreted to address the University's compliance with any other regulatory provision or to address any issues other than those addressed in this or the enclosed letter. You may file a private suit in Federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

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

www.ed.gov

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR case. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public.

Please be advised that the University may not harass, coerce, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual because he or she has filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. If this happens, the harmed individual may file a complaint alleging such treatment.

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

If you have any questions about this letter or OCR's resolution of this case, please contact me at (b)(7)(C) or Emily Babb, the attorney assigned to the complaint, at (b)(7)(C).

Sincerely,



Justin T. Evans
Supervisory Attorney/Team Leader

Enclosure