



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, REGION I

5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, 8TH FLOOR
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3921

DEC 06 2013

Susan Herbst
President
Office of the President
University of Connecticut
352 Mansfield Road, Unit 1048
Storrs, CT 06269-1048

Re: Complaint Number 01-14-2005

Dear President Herbst:

On October 22, 2013, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education received the above-referenced complaint filed against the University of Connecticut (University). This letter is to notify you that OCR is opening the complaint for investigation.

The complaint alleges, in part, that the University did not respond promptly and effectively to complaints and other information indicating that students have been subjected to sexual violence, including sexual assault and sexual harassment, and that students have, as a consequence, been subjected to a sexually hostile environment.

OCR has accepted this allegation for investigation pursuant to its authority under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Title IX), which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. The University is subject to Title IX because it receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

Please note that opening the complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to its merits. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the University, the Complainants, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and dispositive of the allegation, in accordance with the provisions of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*.

We wish to advise you that intimidation or retaliation against a complainant, or any person who participates in an OCR investigation, is prohibited by regulations enforced by this agency. Specifically, the regulations enforced by OCR, directly or by reference, state that no recipient or other person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by regulations enforced by OCR or because one has made a complaint, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceedings or hearing held in connection with a complaint.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, you may contact Equal Opportunity Specialist Mary-Anne Khouhani by telephone at (617) 289-0036, by e-mail at Mary-Anne.Khouhani@ed.gov, or by facsimile at (617) 289-0150. You may also contact Civil Rights Attorney Ramzi Ajami by telephone at (617) 289-0086 or by email at Ramzi.Ajami@ed.gov. You may also contact me directly by telephone at (617) 289-0051. It would be helpful if you would refer to the complaint number noted above (01-14-2005) in any future telephone or written contact with OCR. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Upatham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Upatham
Acting Team Leader/Civil Rights Attorney

cc: Richard Orr, Esq.