



RUSA Resolution S19-09

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Sponsor(s): Sexual Violence Education Committee

Resolution to Condemn the University's Response to Sexual Misconduct Cases

Whereas, sexual violence has been a chronic yet under-reported issue on college campuses across the country,

Whereas, 20% of undergraduate women reported unwanted sexual contact³ and nearly two-thirds of college students nationally experience sexual harassment,⁴

Whereas, among graduate and professional students nationally, 8.8% of females and 2.2% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation,⁵

Whereas, the Rutgers University—New Brunswick Office of Employment Equity (OEE) is tasked with investigating cases of sexual violence and misconduct involving graduate and professional students, faculty, and staff,⁶

³ <https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/file/2380/download>

⁴ <https://www.nsvrc.org/statistics>

⁵ <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

⁶ <https://uhr.rutgers.edu/uhr-units-offices/office-employment-equity>

Whereas, there is a conflict of interest that arises with OEE, a department paid for and maintained by Rutgers University—New Brunswick, solely leading such investigations, which must be addressed by the current administration,

Whereas, based on recent cases, such as the cases involving Professors Nabil Adam and Stephen Bronner, students have expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of transparency and efficiency on faculty and staff sexual misconduct cases investigated by OEE,⁷

Whereas, the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee, established by President Barchi, was created following this dissatisfaction; however, information is not publicly available to students about the committees' membership, what the committee is tasked with, and what they have achieved since their creation in October 2018, and

Whereas, undergraduate and graduate students are largely underrepresented on the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee, which is meant to be the University's approach to address the current failings in the process of reporting and investigating cases of sexual misconduct,

Therefore, be it hereby resolved that the Rutgers University Student Assembly:

1. **Condemns** the conflict of interest involving the OEE serving as the sole investigator on cases involving faculty/staff and graduate students;
2. **Requests** that students be made aware that if the OEE/Title IX findings are used to retaliate against the survivor, putting the survivor's educational, professional and/or scholarly future at risk, and that in such cases OEE/Title IX will reopen their investigation;
3. **Calls upon** each survivor's academic department to continue to fund and assist survivors, especially survivors who need to find a new advisor as a result of the independent and/or the OEE investigation;
4. **Requests** that a minimum of five undergraduate students and five graduate students, selected by their respective student governments at their discretion, serve on the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee at Rutgers University;

⁷ <http://www.dailytargum.com/article/2019/02/end-assault-at-rutgers-delivers-demands-to-barchi-at-board-meeting>

5. **Urges** that the Sexual Harassment Prevention Committee publish their membership, objectives, and findings by the start of the Fall 2019 semester; and
6. **Supports** the efforts of the End Assault at Rutgers Coalition in their aim to advocate for Rutgers survivors of sexual violence.

RUSA President

Date