

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**NO.:** BHE 15-01

**BOARD DATE:** October 21, 2014

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**RESOLUTION REGARDING CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education (the Board) recognizes that the ability to teach and learn is inseparable from the maintenance of a safe learning environment.

The Board further recognizes that sexual violence on college and university campuses is a pressing matter of national importance, and that sexual violence, including stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, harassment and sexual assault, continues to be a serious moral, as well as public health issue, which can have devastating effects on individual victims, as well as serious, negative consequences for colleges and universities.

The Board hereby declares that it has zero tolerance for sexual violence, and that it is committed to helping the Commonwealth's public higher education institutions create and maintain environments that are free from sexual violence.

The Board recognizes and commends the State Universities, the Community Colleges and the University of Massachusetts for work done to date to ensure that their campus policies and practices maintain compliance with federal laws and ethical standards. To ensure that the system of public higher education continues to maintain the highest standards of preventing, identifying, reporting and responding to sexual violence Board therefore issues this call for action and resolves as follows:

1. The Board hereby directs the Commissioner and his staff to support and coordinate current efforts underway at the segmental level to strengthen campus policies and practices on campus sexual violence. The Board further asks representatives from the State Universities, the Community Colleges and the University of Massachusetts to share best practices and continue to review and improve upon ongoing efforts to make sure that innovative, evidence-based practices are used throughout the Massachusetts public higher education system.
2. The Board recognizes that the State Universities and the Community Colleges are presently updating their current respective segmental affirmative action plans in accordance

with new federal requirements. The Board expresses a strong preference for commonality in the proposed segmental plans, consistent with relevant variations in the nature of individual campuses. The Board hereby requests that proposed updates to the segmental affirmative action plans be submitted to the Board for review and approval in December, 2014.

3. The Board hereby directs the Commissioner to review the Board's current best practice guidelines on campus violence prevention and response and report back to the BHE no later than December 2014 on whether and how the Board's existing guidelines could be updated and improved to appropriately help campuses prevent, identify, report and respond to sexual violence and assault.

Authority: M.G.L. c. 15A, §9(u) and (w)

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