



TITLE IX GRIEVANCE POLICY

General

Policy Number: 1030

1.0 PURPOSE

Columbia Basin College (“CBC” or the “College”) recognizes its responsibility to investigate, resolve, implement corrective measures, and monitor the educational environment and workplace to stop, remediate, and prevent discrimination on the basis of sex, as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, and Washington State’s Law Against Discrimination, and their implementing regulations. To this end, the College has enacted the Title IX Grievance Policy and adopted the Title IX Hearing Procedure for Students and Title IX Hearing Procedure for Employees to receive and investigate allegations of sexual harassment in its education programs and activities and employment. Any individual found responsible for violating CBC’s Title IX Policy is subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the College’s education programs and activities and/or termination of employment.

Application of this Title IX Grievance Policy is restricted to allegations of “Sexual Harassment,” as that term is defined in 34 C.F.R. §106.30. Nothing in this policy limits or otherwise restricts the College’s ability to investigate and pursue discipline based on alleged violations of other federal, state, and local laws, their implementing regulations, and other College policies prohibiting gender discrimination through processes set forth in the College’s code of student conduct, employment contracts, employee handbooks, and collective bargaining agreements.

2.0 AUTHORITY & SCOPE

2.1 Authority: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and ADA Amendment Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and Washington State’s Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW and their implementing regulations, Chapter 132S-110 WAC.

2.2 Scope: All students, employees, applicants and visitors.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Policy, the following terms are defined as follows:

3.1 Consent is knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Each party has the responsibility to make certain that the other has consented before engaging in the activity. For consent to be valid, there must be at the time of the act of sexual intercourse or sexual

contact actual words or conduct indicating freely given agreement to have sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

3.1.1 A person cannot consent if they are unable to understand what is happening or are disoriented, helpless, asleep, or unconscious for any reason, including due to alcohol or other drugs. An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has engaged in nonconsensual conduct.

3.1.2 Intoxication is not a defense against allegations that an individual has engaged in nonconsensual sexual conduct.

3.2 Complainant is an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

3.3 Respondent is an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

3.4 Formal Complaint is a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator or designee alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the College investigate the allegations of sexual harassment. At the time of filing a formal complaint, the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in an educational program or activity of the College. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator or designee by mail, in person, or electronic communication.

3.5 Education Program or Activity is locations, events, or circumstances over which the College exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the alleged sexual harassment occurred. It also includes any building owned or controlled by a student organization officially recognized by the College.

3.6 Grievance Procedure is the process the College uses to initiate, informally resolve, and/or investigate allegations that an employee or student has violated Title IX provisions prohibiting sexual harassment.

3.7 Supportive Measures are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or respondent regardless of whether the complainant or the Title IX Coordinator or designee has filed a Formal Complaint. Supportive measures restore or preserve a party's access to the College's education programs and activities without unreasonably burdening the other party, as determined through an interactive process between the Title IX Coordinator or designee and the party. Supportive measures include measures designed to protect the safety of all parties and/or the College's educational environment and/or to deter sexual harassment or retaliation. Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

3.7.1 Counseling and other medical assistance;

3.7.2 Extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments;

3.7.3 Modifications of work or class schedules;

3.7.4 Safe walks from Campus Security;

3.7.5 Leaves of absence;

- 3.7.6 increased security or monitoring of certain areas of campus; and
- 3.7.7 imposition of orders prohibiting the parties from contacting one another in housing or work situations.

Determinations about whether to impose a one-way no contact order must be made on a case-by-case basis. If supportive measures are not provided, the Title IX Coordinator or designee must document in writing why this was clearly reasonable under the circumstances.

3.8 Sexual Harassment is for purposes of this Title IX Grievance Policy and its supplemental procedures, sexual harassment occurs when a respondent engages in the following discriminatory conduct on the basis of sex:

3.8.1 Quid pro quo harassment

A College employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the College on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.

3.8.2 Hostile environment

Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the College's educational programs or activities or College employment.

3.9 Sexual assault is the following conduct:

3.9.1 Nonconsensual sexual intercourse

Any actual or attempted sexual intercourse (anal, oral, or vaginal), however slight, with any object or body part, by a person upon another person, that is without Consent and/or by force. Sexual intercourse includes anal or vaginal penetration by a penis, tongue, finger, or object, or oral copulation by mouth to genital contact or genital to mouth contact.

3.9.2 Nonconsensual sexual contact

Any actual or attempted sexual touching, however slight, with any body part or object, by a person upon another person that is without Consent and/or by force. Sexual touching includes any bodily contact with the breasts, groin, mouth, or other bodily orifice of another individual, or any other bodily contact in a sexual manner.

3.9.3 Incest

Sexual intercourse or sexual contact with a person known to be related to them, either legitimately or illegitimately, as an ancestor, descendant, brother, or sister of either wholly or half related. Descendant includes stepchildren and adopted children under the age of eighteen (18).

3.9.4 Statutory rape

Consensual intercourse between a person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, and a person who is under the age of sixteen (16).

3.9.5 Domestic violence

Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person

who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Washington, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Washington, RCW 26.50.010.

3.9.6 Dating violence

Physical violence, bodily injury, assault, the infliction of fear of imminent physical harm, sexual assault, or stalking committed by a person (i) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (ii) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

3.9.6.1 The length of the relationship;

3.9.6.2 The type of relationship; and

3.9.6.3 The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

3.9.7 Stalking

Is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (i) fear for their safety or the safety of others; or (ii) suffer substantial emotional distress.

3.10 Title IX Administrators are the Title IX Coordinator or designee, Title IX investigators, the Student Conduct Officer, Title IX Student Hearing Panel members, Title IX Employee Hearing Panel members, and College-provided advisors assigned during Title IX proceedings.

3.11 Title IX Coordinator or designee is responsible for processing Title IX complaints and conducting and/or overseeing formal investigations and informal resolution processes under this Grievance Policy. Among other things, the Title IX Coordinator or designee is responsible for:

3.11.1 Accepting and processing all Title IX reports, referrals, and Formal Complaints;

3.11.2 Executing and submitting a Formal Complaint when appropriate and necessary;

3.11.3 Handling requests for confidentiality;

3.11.4 Determining during the Grievance Procedure (i) whether a Formal Complaint should be dismissed either in whole or in part, and if so, (ii) providing notice to both parties about why dismissal was necessary or desirable, and (iii) referring the complaint to the appropriate disciplinary authority for proceedings outside the jurisdiction of Title IX;

3.11.5 Maintaining accurate records of all complaints, reports, and referrals, and retaining investigation files, complaints, reports, and referrals in compliance with the applicable records retention schedules or federal or state law, whichever is longer;

3.11.6 Conducting investigations or assigning and overseeing investigations;

- 3.11.7 Engaging in an interactive process with both parties to identify and provide supportive measures that ensure during the investigation and disciplinary processes that the parties have equitable access to education programs and activities and are protected from further discrimination or retaliation;
 - 3.11.8 Upon completion of an investigation, issuing or overseeing the issuance of a final investigation report to the parties and the appropriate disciplinary authority in compliance with this Grievance Policy; and
 - 3.11.9 Recommending non-disciplinary corrective measures to stop, remediate, and/or prevent recurrence of discriminatory conduct to disciplinary authorities and other College administrators.
- 3.12 Advisor is a person of the complainant or respondent's choosing who may be but is not required to be an attorney, and for either party may be a union representative. Advisors are not permitted to speak on behalf of the party they represent at any meeting or interview during the investigative process. Advisors will be responsible for questioning all witnesses on the party's behalf during a hearing. Prior to a hearing, the College will provide a list of available advisors at no cost to the party, if the party fails to obtain an advisor on their own.

4.0 TITLE IX GREIVANCE POLICY

4.1 Principles for the Title IX Grievance Process

- 4.1.1 Respondent shall be presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct unless or until a determination of responsibility is reached after completion of the grievance and disciplinary processes.
- 4.1.2 Before imposing discipline, CBC is responsible for gathering and presenting evidence to a neutral and unbiased decision maker for a determination of whether or not the respondent is responsible for violating the Title IX Grievance Policy based on a preponderance of the evidence.
- 4.1.3 The College shall treat both the complainant and respondent equitably by providing complainant with remedies against respondent who has been found responsible for sexual harassment through application of the institution's Title IX Grievance Policy and applicable disciplinary procedures and by providing respondent with procedural safeguards contained in this Policy and in the applicable Title IX hearing procedures.
- 4.1.4 The investigator shall base investigation results on all relevant evidence, including both exculpatory and inculpatory evidence.
- 4.1.5 Formal and informal resolutions will be pursued within reasonably prompt timeframes with allowances for temporary delays and extensions for good cause shown. Grounds for temporary delay

include, but are not limited to campus closures, extraordinary disruptions to normal operations, and academic calendar breaks. Good cause supporting a request for an extension includes, but is not limited to: a party, a party's advisor, or a witness being unavailable, concurrent law enforcement activity, and the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities. Both parties will receive written notice of any temporary delay or extension for good cause with an explanation of why the action was necessary.

- 4.1.6** A respondent found responsible for engaging in sexual harassment may receive discipline up to and including dismissal from the College. A description of other possible disciplinary sanctions and conditions that may be imposed against students can be found in WAC 132S-100-440.
- 4.1.7** An employee found responsible for sexual harassment may receive discipline up to and including dismissal from employment. A description of possible disciplinary sanctions and conditions that may be imposed against employees can be found at www.columbiabasin.edu under Standards of Conduct policy and collective bargaining agreements.
- 4.1.8** In proceedings against a student respondent, the parties may appeal the Title IX Student Hearing Panel's decision to the President pursuant to the Title IX Hearing Procedure for Students, WAC 132S-110-090. In proceedings against an employee respondent, the parties may appeal the Employee Hearing Panel's decision to the President pursuant to The Title IX Hearing Procedure for Employees.
- 4.1.9** Title IX Administrators may not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that seeks disclosure of privileged communications, unless the privilege has been effectively waived by the holder. This provision applies, but is not limited to information subject to the following:
 - 4.1.9.1** Spousal/domestic partner privilege;
 - 4.1.9.2** Attorney-Client and attorney work product privileges;
 - 4.1.9.3** Privileges applicable to members of the clergy and priests;
 - 4.1.9.4** Privileges applicable to medical providers, mental health therapists, and counselors;
 - 4.1.9.5** Privileges applicable to sexual assault and domestic violence advocates; and
 - 4.1.9.6** Other legal privileges identified in RCW 5.60.060.

4.2 Title IX Administrators – Free from Bias-Training Requirements

- 4.2.1** Title IX Administrators shall perform their duties free from bias or conflicts.

- 4.2.2** Title IX Administrators shall undergo training on the following topics, as applicable:
 - 4.2.2.1** The definition of sexual harassment under these procedures;

 - 4.2.2.2** The scope of CBC’s educational programs and activities;

 - 4.2.2.3** How to conduct an investigation;

 - 4.2.2.4** How to serve impartially without prejudgment of facts, conflicts of interest, or bias;

 - 4.2.2.5** Use of technology used during an investigation or hearing;

 - 4.2.2.6** The relevance of evidence and questions; and

 - 4.2.2.7** Effective report writing.

- 4.2.3** All Title IX Administrator training materials shall be available on the College’s Title IX webpage.

4.3 Filing a Complaint

Any employee, student, applicant, or visitor who believes that they have been the subject of sexual harassment should report the incident or incidents to the College’s Title IX Coordinator or designee identified below. If the complaint is against the Title IX Coordinator or designee, the complainant should report the matter to the President’s office for referral to an alternate designee.

Name: Corey Osborn

Title: Vice President for Human Resources & Legal Affairs

Title IX/EEO Coordinator

Office: 2600 N 20th Ave., A Building, Pasco, WA 99301

Phone: 509-542-5548 or email: cosborn@columbiabasin.edu

4.4 Amenity for Student Complainants and Student Witnesses

The College community encourages the reporting of misconduct and crimes by student complainants and witnesses. Sometimes, student complainants or witnesses are hesitant to report to College officials or participate in grievance processes because they fear that they themselves may be in violation of certain policies, such as underage drinking or use of illicit drugs at the time of the incident. Respondents may hesitate to be forthcoming during the process for the same reasons.

It is in the best interests of the College community that student complainants choose to report misconduct to College officials, that witnesses come forward to share what they know, and that all parties be forthcoming during the process.

To encourage reporting and participation in the process, the College maintains a policy of offering student parties and witnesses amnesty from minor policy violations – such as underage consumption of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs – related to the incident.

Amnesty does not apply to more serious allegations such as physical abuse of another or illicit drug distribution. The decision not to offer amnesty to a student respondent is based on neither sex nor gender, but on the fact that collateral misconduct is typically addressed for all students within a progressive discipline system, and the rationale for amnesty – the incentive to report serious misconduct – is rarely applicable to student respondent with respect to a complainant.

4.5 Confidentiality

4.5.1 The College will seek to protect the privacy of the complainant to the fullest extent possible, consistent with the legal obligation to investigate, take appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action, and comply with the federal and state law, as well as CBC policies and procedures. Although the College will attempt to honor complainants' requests for confidentiality, it cannot guarantee complete confidentiality. Determinations regarding how to handle requests for confidentiality will be made by the Title IX Coordinator or designee.

4.5.2 The Title IX Coordinator or designee will inform and attempt to obtain consent from the complainant before commencing an investigation of alleged sexual harassment. If a complainant asks that their name not be revealed to the respondent or that the College not investigate the allegation, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will inform the complainant that maintaining confidentiality may limit the College's ability to fully respond to the allegations and that retaliation by the respondent and/or others is prohibited. If the complainant still insists that their name not be disclosed or that the College not investigate, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will determine whether the College can honor the request and at the same time maintain a safe and nondiscriminatory environment for all members of the College community, including the complainant. Factors to be weighed during this determination may include, but are not limited to:

4.5.2.1 The seriousness of the alleged sexual harassment;

4.5.2.2 The age of the complainant;

4.5.2.3 Whether the sexual harassment was perpetrated with a weapon;

4.5.2.4 Whether the respondent has a history of committing acts of sexual harassment or violence or has been the subject of other sexual harassment or violence complaints or findings;

4.5.2.5 Whether the respondent threatened to commit additional acts of sexual harassment or violence against the complainant or others; and

4.5.2.6 Whether relevant evidence about the alleged incident can be obtained through other means (e.g., security cameras, other witnesses, physical evidence).

4.5.3 If the College is unable to honor a complainant's request for confidentiality, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will notify the complainant of the decision and ensure that the complainant's identity is disclosed only to the extent reasonably necessary to effectively conduct and complete the investigation in compliance with this Policy.

4.5.4 If the College decides not to conduct an investigation or take disciplinary action because of a request for confidentiality, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will evaluate whether other measures are available to address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint and prevent their recurrence and implement such measures if reasonably feasible.

4.6 Complaint Resolution

The Title IX resolution processes are initiated when the Title IX Coordinator or designee's Office receives a written complaint alleging that a respondent(s) sexually harassed a complainant and requesting that the College initiate an investigation (a formal complaint). A formal complaint must be either submitted by the complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator or designee on behalf of the complainant. Formal complaints submitted to the Title IX Coordinator or designee may be resolved through either informal or formal resolution processes. The College will not proceed with either resolution process without a formal complaint.

For purposes of this Title IX Grievance Policy, the complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in a College education program or activity at the time the formal complaint is filed.

4.6.1 Informal Resolution

Under appropriate circumstances and if the complainant and respondent agree, they may voluntarily pursue informal resolution at any point during the investigation. Informal resolution is not appropriate when the allegations involve a mandatory reporting situation, an immediate threat to the health, safety or welfare of a member of the College community, or in cases where an employee is alleged to have sexually harassed a student.

If an informal resolution is appropriate, the complainant and the respondent may explore remedies or resolution through:

4.6.1.1 Guided conversations or communications conducted by the Title IX Coordinator or designee or Human Resources/Legal Affairs Office representative or a mutually agreed upon third party;

4.6.1.2 Structured resolution process conducted by a trained mediator;
or

4.6.1.3 Voluntarily agreed on alterations to either or both of the parties' work or class schedules or student housing arrangements.

If the parties agree to an informal resolution process, the College will commence the process within ten (10) days after the parties agree to this option and conclude within 45 days of beginning that process; subject to reasonable delays and extensions for good cause shown. The informal process is voluntary. Either the complainant or respondent may withdraw from the informal resolution process at any time, at which point the formal investigation process will resume.

If the complainant and respondent voluntarily resolve a report, the College will record the terms of the resolution in a written agreement signed by both parties and provide written notice to both parties that the report has been closed.

4.6.2 Formal Resolution

Formal resolution means that the complainant's allegations of sexual harassment will be subjected to a fact-finding investigation by an impartial and unbiased investigator. The investigator will issue a report of the investigation findings. Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator will submit the final investigation report to the Title IX Coordinator or designee to determine whether a live-hearing is warranted.

4.7 Emergency Removal

If a student respondent poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of the College Community or an immediate threat of significant disruption to College operations, the College's Student Conduct Officer may summarily suspend a respondent pursuant to WAC 132S-100-445 pending final resolution of the allegations. Nothing in this Policy prohibits the College from placing non-student employees on administrative leave pending final resolution of the allegations.

4.8 Investigation Notices

Upon receiving a formal complaint and determining that allegations comport with Title IX claims, the College will provide the parties with the following notices containing the following information:

4.8.1 Notice of formal and informal resolution processes

A description of the College's grievance resolution procedures, including the informal resolution process.

The investigator will serve the complainant and respondent with a Notice of Investigation in advance of the initial interview with the respondent to allow sufficient time to prepare a response to the allegations and to inform the complainant that the College has commenced an investigation. The investigation notice will:

- 4.8.1.1** Include the identities of the parties (if known), a description of the conduct alleged constituting Title IX sexual harassment, and the time and location of the incident (if known).
- 4.8.1.2** Confirm that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that the College will not make a final determination of responsibility until after the grievance and hearing processes have been completed.
- 4.8.1.3** Inform parties that they are both entitled to have an advisor of their own choosing, who may be an attorney and the College will provide a list of available advisors at no cost to the party, if the party fails to obtain an advisor on their own.
- 4.8.1.4** Inform parties they have a right to review and inspect evidence.
- 4.8.1.5** Inform parties about student conduct code provisions and employment policies that prohibit students and employees from knowingly submitting false information during the grievance and disciplinary processes.

4.8.2 Amended investigation notice

If during the course of the investigation, the College decides to investigate Title IX sexual harassment allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the investigation notice, the College will issue an amended notice of investigation to both parties that includes this additional information.

4.8.3 Interview and meeting notices

Before any interviewing or meeting with a party, the College shall provide the party with a written notice identifying the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the interview at least 48 hours in advance to allow time for the party to prepare for the interview or meeting.

4.9 Investigation Process - Dismissal

4.9.1 Mandatory dismissal

The Title IX Coordinator or designee will dismiss the formal complaint, if during the course of the investigation, the investigator determines that the alleged misconduct:

4.9.1.1 Does not meet the definition of sexual harassment under Title IX, even if proved;

4.9.1.2 Did not occur in the context of a College education program or activity; or

4.9.1.3 Occurred outside the United States.

4.9.2 Discretionary dismissal

The College may dismiss a formal complaint in whole or in part, if:

4.9.2.1 The complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator or designee in writing that they would like to withdraw the formal complaint in whole or in part;

4.9.2.2 The respondent is no longer enrolled with or employed by the College; or

4.9.2.3 Specific circumstances prevent the College from gathering evidence sufficient to complete the investigation of the Title IX allegations in whole or in part.

The Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide both parties written notice if the formal complaint is dismissed with an explanation for the dismissal.

Mandatory or discretionary dismissal of a formal complaint does not preclude the College from investigating and pursuing discipline based on allegations that a respondent violated other federal or state laws and regulations, CBC

conduct policies, and/or other codes and contractual provisions governing student and employee conduct.

4.10 Investigation Process – Consolidation of Formal Complaints

When multiple sexual harassment allegations by or against different parties arise out of the same facts or circumstances, the College may consolidate the investigation of formal complaints, provided consolidation can be accomplished in compliance with confidentiality protections imposed by the Family Educational Records and Privacy Act (FERPA). This includes instances in which the complainant and respondent have lodged formal complaints against one another or when allegations of sexual assault are lodged by a single complainant against multiple respondents, or when multiple complainants lodge sexual assault complaints against a single or multiple respondents.

4.11 Investigation Process – Required Procedures

During the investigation, the Investigator:

- 4.11.1** Will provide the parties with equal opportunity to present relevant statements, and other evidence in the form of fact or expert witnesses and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence.
- 4.11.2** Will not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or gather and present relevant evidence, except when a no contact order has been imposed based on an individualized and fact specific determination that a party poses a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of another party and/or witness or when contact with a party and/or witness is prohibited by court order. A College-imposed no contact order shall be no broader than is necessary to protect the threatened party or witness and must provide the impacted party or their advisor with alternative means of gathering and presenting relevant evidence from the protected witness and/or party.
- 4.11.3** Will allow each party to be accompanied by an advisor of their choosing, who may be an attorney, to any grievance related meeting or interview. Advisors' roles during the investigation meetings or interviews will be limited to providing support and advice to the party. Advisors will not represent or otherwise advocate on behalf of the parties during the investigation process. An attorney representing a party must enter a notice of appearance with the Title IX Coordinator or designee at least five (5) days before the initial interview or meeting they plan to attend, so that the College can secure its own legal representation, if necessary.
- 4.11.4** The investigator will provide both parties and their respective advisors with an equal opportunity to review the draft investigation report and to inspect and review any evidence obtained during the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint,

including inculpatory or exculpatory evidence, regardless of its source, as well as evidence upon which the investigator does not intend to rely in the final investigation report. After disclosure, each party will receive ten (10) days in which to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigation report. If a party fails to submit a written response within ten (10) days, the party will be deemed to have waived their right to submit comments and the investigator will finalize the report without this information.

- 4.11.5** The investigator will forward the final report to the Title IX Coordinator or designee who will distribute the report and make evidence readily available to the parties. The Title IX Coordinator or designee will also notify the parties of the process of a live hearing or referral to other College policy.

4.12 Retaliation

Protected activity under this policy includes reporting an incident that may implicate this policy, participating in the grievance process, supporting a complainant or respondent, assisting in providing information relevant to an investigation, and/or acting in good faith to oppose conduct that constitutes a violation of this Policy.

Acts of alleged retaliation should be reported immediately to the Title IX Coordinator or designee and will be promptly investigated. The College is prepared to take appropriate steps to protect individuals who fear that they may be subjected to retaliation.

It is prohibited for the College or any member of the College's community to take materially adverse action by intimidating, threatening, coercing, harassing, or discriminating against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by law or policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy and procedure.

Charges against an individual for a CBC policy violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or complaint of sexual harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, constitutes retaliation.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy and procedure does not constitute retaliation, provided that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party has made a materially false statement in bad faith.

5.0 FORMS & OTHER RESOURCES

[Complaint Form](#)

[Title IX Webpage](#)

6.0 HISTORY & POLICY CONTACT

6.1 Originated: 10/02

6.2 Revised: 08/2022, 01/2023

6.3 Proposal Date: 08/12/2020

6.4 Promulgation Date: 08/14/2020

6.5 Responsible Administrator: Vice President for Human Resources & Legal Affairs, Title IX/EEO Coordinator