



## **Title IX**

### **Important Update from the Title IX Office**

August 14, 2020

On May 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights released revised regulations to implement Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX is the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. To meet these new regulations, all colleges and universities were required to revise their current policies and procedures governing sexual harassment, including stalking and relationship violence by August 14, 2020.

In an effort to comply with the new Title IX regulations, RIT assembled a team comprised of members from the Title IX Office, Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, Human Resources, the Division of Diversity and Inclusion, Academic Affairs, the Office of Compliance and Ethics, the Office of Legal Affairs, and Public Safety. The team was tasked with assessing the impact of the regulations on RIT's current policies, procedures, and programming, and revising its policies to deliver a fair and informed process that reflects the culture, values, and expectations of the RIT community.

The result of the team's work is the new Policy on Title IX Sexual Harassment for Faculty, Staff, and Students (Policy C.27) that is now in effect and available for review [here](#). Many parts of Policy C.27 are mandated by specific statutory requirements. However, there are some areas where colleges and universities were given discretion to make decisions that are best for their community. Rest assured that with respect to any areas in which the university had discretion, the implementation team made every attempt to prioritize the safety and well-being of all members of the university community.

In light of the short turnaround time from release of the regulations to required compliance, Policy C.27 has been granted interim status by the President. However, in the coming weeks, the RIT community will have an opportunity to provide input regarding the new policy through the governance process. We look forward to engaging the community in these important discussions to ensure that RIT has a process to promptly address reports of sexual and gender-based harassment and violence that is empathetic, fair, and equitable. In addition, D.19 Student Sexual Misconduct Policy and C06.0 RIT Policy Prohibiting Harassment and Discrimination will remain in effect for all prohibited conduct that may fall outside the specific scope identified in the Title IX regulations.

RIT is committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for all members of our university community. We encourage you to review the university's policies and to take advantage of the numerous Title IX resources on campus. Through our collective efforts, we can achieve our goal of fostering a respectful, harassment-free environment for all members of the RIT community.

Stacy DeRooy

Director of Title IX and Clery Compliance