October 2, 2017

Dear ISU Community,

Over the past six-months, the Sexual Misconduct Policy Committee has been engaged in updating and advancing the University’s sexual violence, harassment, and discrimination policy, including clarifying reporting procedures and resources for responding to such prohibited conduct, and streamlining and improving the University’s investigation and adjudication processes. It is the hope of the Committee that the attached draft policy signals ISU’s unwavering commitment to addressing these important issues. Sexual violence, harassment, and discrimination are critical and pervasive problems on campuses and in society generally. Prohibited conduct of this nature is an affront to ISU’s commitment to fostering a safe learning, working, and living environment, and undermines the University’s principles of community. ISU already commits significant resources to these issues and now, through this policy and related initiatives, strives to become a national model in prevention, education, and response.

The principles and values driving the new draft policy include:

- Ensure prompt and effective responses to reports of prohibited conduct, including appropriate action to stop, eliminate, remedy, and prevent prohibited conduct.
- Provide clearer guidance, definitions, and examples concerning prohibited conduct.
- Reinforce and clarify ISU’s commitment to providing support, services, and resources to all individuals impacted by prohibited conduct and involved in the University’s investigation and adjudication process.
- Address how students, faculty, staff and visitors can contribute to the prevention of, intervention in, and effective response to prohibited conduct.
- Provide clearer, more deliberate reporting structures and response procedures for various forms of prohibited conduct.
- Respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals involved in the University’s investigation and resolution process.
- Ensure equal rights and opportunities to all parties throughout the investigation and adjudication process.
- Clearly distinguish the University’s internal campus conduct process from the separately available law enforcement/legal process.
- Provide alternative dispute resolution and educational centered resolution options for appropriate matters.

The Committee looks forward to discussing and receiving feedback from the entire campus community regarding this important policy.

Sincerely,

Sexual Misconduct Policy Committee*
*2017-18 Sexual Misconduct Policy Committee Members*

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