

## Student Concerns Team

**Objective:** The University of Connecticut has implemented a number of proactive programs and resources to address student behavioral concerns in the wake of the Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University tragedies. One of those initiatives is a Student Concerns Team whose role is to review concerns raised by members of the University Community and to consider coordinated, thoughtful, and appropriate responses. The Team also serves as a forum for members to consider and review other means of informing members of our community how to identify and respond to students in distress.

### **I. Definitions:**

- a. **“FERPA”** is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, as interpreted in the University’s FERPA Policy.
- b. *“Responsibilities of Community Life: The Student Code”* (“The Student Code”) outlines the expectations of University students as members of the University community as well as the educational, administrative process for addressing violations of University policy. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the values embraced by the University community and reflected in its various policies, contracts, rules and regulations. The Student Code rests on the principles of individual development, community involvement, and fairness.
- c. **“Student”** means any person admitted, registered, enrolled, or attending any University course or University conducted program; any person admitted to the University who is on University premises or University-related premises for any purpose pertaining to his or her registration or enrollment.
- d. **“Student Concerns Team”** (“The Team”) includes representatives from various University offices, including but not limited to: AOD Services; Center for Students with Disabilities; Community Standards; Counseling and Mental Health Services; Dean of Students; Residential Life; Student Health Services; and the University Police.
- e. **“University”** is the University of Connecticut.
- f. **“University Official”** means any person employed by the University to perform administrative, instructional, or professional duties.

### **II. Protocol**

- a. Team member gains information about a student whose behavior may pose a risk to self, other community members or University property.
- b. Team member brings information to a meeting of the Team.

- i. The Team discusses possible responses to the student's behavior, if any.
- ii. A Team Member may choose to respond to or follow up on the student's behavior, although the decision to do so remains within the discretion of each individual Team Member.
- iii. When appropriate, Team Member will provide status update on student.

**c. Examples of Response: *Possible responses to student behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:***

- i. **Team information sharing:** Team member shares information about students with other Team members as deemed necessary and appropriate pursuant to the relevant confidentiality laws.
- ii. **The Student Code:** Students who engage in disruptive behavior or other behavior proscribed by the Student Code are referred to Community Standards. For information about the student conduct process, refer to The Student Code.
- iii. **Contact Other University Officials:** If a Team member feels the Student's behavior may pose a risk to the Student, the larger community and/or University property, Team member may contact and inform other University Officials who have a legitimate interest in this information. This may include, but is not limited to, the Division of Public Safety and/or employees in the Student's School or College.
- iv. **Contact Parents/Family/ Guardian:** A Team Member and/or a University Official may contact parents/guardian/family with or without the Student's consent if the Team determines in its best professional judgment that it is necessary to do so to protect the health or safety of the Student or other individual. The determination of whether to contact Parents/Family/Guardian is in the sole discretion of the Team member, who will not contact Parents if there are documented reasons to not do it and/or it is not the best interest of the community to do so.

**d. Additional Standards**

- i. Documents created during or as a result of these meetings that directly identify a student are "education records" as defined by FERPA and thus, are subject to the review of student to whom they pertain.
- ii. Documents created during or as a result of these meetings that do not directly identify any students may be "public records" under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, subject to public disclosure.

- III. **Compliance:** The Team will engage in semi-annual reviews of this process to ensure that it meets the stated objective; appropriately balances student rights with the larger community welfare; is consistent with the current climate of the University environment; is in compliance with state and federal laws, and is being consistently followed by those in the Team.
- IV. **Approval Date: March 1, 2008**