The Changing Lens of Student Conduct, Looking beyond “Responsible”

Beth Devonshire, Esq.
Director of Community Standards
Bridgewater State University
Why Community Standards?

- Move away from Judicial
- An Educational, not punitive process
- Holistic
Mission of Community Standards

"The discipline of students in the educational community is, in all but the case of irrevocable expulsion, a part of the teaching process. In the case of irrevocable expulsion for misconduct, the process is not punitive or deterrent in the criminal law sense, but the process is rather the determination that the student is unqualified to continue as a member of the educational community. Even then, the disciplinary process is not equivalent to the criminal law processes of federal and state criminal law. For, while the expelled student may suffer damaging effects, sometimes irreparable, to his educational, social, and economic future, he or she may not be imprisoned, fined, disenfranchised, or subjected to probationary supervision. The attempted analogy of student discipline to criminal proceedings against adults and juveniles is not sound."

September 18, 1968 entitled “General Order on Judicial Standards of Procedure and Substance in Review of Student Discipline in Tax-Supported Institutions of Higher Education"
Our Students...

Everything happens for a reason, but sometimes things happen because you're stupid and make bad decisions.
To Charge or Not To Charge...

- Allegations are made, now what
- What Factors are weighed?
  - Due Process
  - Protection of the University climate
  - Individual Rights
  - Freedom of Speech
  - Academic Freedom and advocacy
- FIRE (The FIRE.Org)
Hate Crimes

“Hate crime”, any criminal act coupled with overt actions motivated by bigotry and bias including, but not limited to, a threatened, attempted or completed overt act motivated at least in part by racial, religious, ethnic, handicap, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation prejudice, or which otherwise deprives another person of his constitutional rights by threats, intimidation or coercion, or which seek to interfere with or disrupt a person’s exercise of constitutional rights through harassment or intimidation. Hate crime shall also include, but not be limited to, acts that constitute violations of sections thirty-seven and thirty-nine of chapter two hundred and sixty-five, section one hundred and twenty-seven A of chapter two hundred and sixty-six and chapter two hundred and seventy-two.
Use the Code...

- Harming behavior, which includes, but is not limited to: the true threat of or actual physical assault or abuse; bullying; and or harassment. In determining whether an act constitutes bullying or harassment, The Office of Student Conduct will consider the full context of any given incident, giving due consideration to the protection of the University climate, individual rights, freedom of speech, academic freedom and advocacy. Please note that not every act that might be offensive to an individual or a group necessarily will be considered harassment and/or a violation of *The Student Code.*

- Any action that threatens, endangers, or subjects another person to physical harm, incites a person by provocation, excludes a person from participation in, or denies a person the benefits of University programs, or otherwise subjects a person to discrimination based on race, gender, disability, veteran status, age, marital status, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status and/or genetic information.
Use Your Code...

- Disruptive behavior which is defined as participating in or inciting others to participate in the disruption or obstruction of any University activity, including, but not limited to: teaching, research, events, administration, student conduct proceedings, the living/learning environment, or other University activities, on or off-campus; or of other non-University activities when the conduct occurs on University premises; or of the living environment, on or off-campus.

- Uncooperative behavior which includes, but is not limited to, uncooperative behavior and/or failure to comply with the directions of, providing false information, and/or failure to identify oneself to University officials or law enforcement officers acting in the performance of their duties.
Civility Codes:

- Purdue University Calumet places a priority on student learning. We value the inherent worth and dignity of every person, thereby fostering a community of mutual respect. We believe that in order to achieve these ideals, all Purdue University Calumet students are expected, while in the role as student or representative of the university, to exhibit and practice civil behaviors, defined as behaviors that:
  
- 1. Respect faculty, staff, fellow students, guests, and all university property, policies, rules and regulations
- 2. Take responsibility for one’s choices and actions
- 3. Accept consequences of one’s inappropriate choices and actions
- 4. Communicate in a professional and courteous manner in all forms, and at all times, whether verbal, non-verbal or written.
What Do We Do?!?!
Think Outside the Box

- Conversation
- Greek Organizations
- Others?!?!
Pro-Social Bystander

- VAWA and DCL seem to like it, right?
- 5 Stages to deciding to help someone:
  1. You notice the incident
  2. You interpret the incident as an "emergency"
  3. You have the skill set / ability to intervene
  4. You assume it is your responsibility to intervene in the situation
  5. You intervene
Let’s Keep Thinking

**Rape Culture**

Slide by D. Lisak

- Sexism
- Denigration of women
- Bystanders
- Facilitators
  - Core sex offenders
  - Calloused sexual attitudes
  - Hyper-masculinity

Bringing in the Bystander (Plante, Banyard, Moynihan, Eckstein)®
Knowing What We Do...

- Case Scenarios