Investigations Guide and Checklist



Step	Actions
Step One: Receiving and Assessing Complaint Step Two: Urgent Measures	 Complaints can come in many forms: Verbal Written Observed Initial Discussion with Complainant Gather facts to understand complaint and determine process What immediate action is required? Mandatory reporting obligations Was a crime committed?
	 Title IX? (If Title IX, do not discipline.) What supportive measures are needed (Complainant and Respondent)? <u>Consider</u>: schedule change, no contact order, modified lunch schedules, change in work locations, counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, voluntary independent study, voluntary transfer, campus safety escort, increased security, monitoring of certain areas on campus Administrative Leave/Emergency Removal (if Title IX)
Step Three: Initiate an Investigation into the Complaint	 What Board Policy/Administrative Regulation must be followed? Know your timeline (look at relevant BP/AR and Collective Bargaining Agreements) Define the allegations Clear and concise "yes or no" questions or statements Avoid legal terms such as "discriminated" "harassed" or "retaliated" Avoid ambiguous and subjective words
Step Four: Gather, Review, and Preserve Evidence	Be sure to ask parties and witnesses about available documentation and evidence. ¹ Review notes, written complaint, etc. Evaluate and make list of all potential witnesses.
Step Five: Draft a List of Witnesses	 Consider order, timing, location of interviews Complainant, witnesses, Respondent Potential conflicts of interest

¹ Examples may include: Emails, Phone Records, Attendance Records, Travel Logs, Security Records, Computer Records/Files, Internet Usage and Websites Visited, Picture, Audio/Video, Credit Card Receipts, Observing Locations

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Step Six:	Do not promise confidentiality
Draft Interview	Use a trauma-informed approach.
Questions and	Schedule interview at convenient time and place.
Apply a Trauma-	 Listen attentively and actively without interrupting.
Informed	Allow interviewee to control flow of information.
Approach	• Do not victim-blame.
	• Save clarifying questions for the end.
	 Explain the need/context when asking sensitive questions.
	 Suggest breaks as needed.
	Get written statements to supplement the interview
	Consider having a second administrator in the room
	Take detailed notes
Step Seven:	Consider student and employee rights as Parties/Witnesses
Conduct	Be prepared to address issues (e.g., uncooperative parties/witnesses, concurrent police
Interviews	investigations, etc.)
Step Eight:	Analyze the evidence
Prepare the	Apply facts to law/policy
Investigation	Consider own bias and make credibility determinations
Report	
Step Nine:	Determine if corrective action is required based on outcome of investigation
Corrective Action	
Step Ten:	Tie up any loose ends:
Reflect	 Is a CTC report required?
	Have all mandated reporter duties been satisfied?
	• Are their systemic issues at play that need to be addressed?