



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

400 MARYLAND AVENUE, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1475

REGION VI
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON, DC

March 27, 2017

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Re: OCR Complaint No. 11-16-2234
Notification Letter

On June 1, 2016, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) received your complaint against Virginia Commonwealth University (the University). You allege that the University discriminated against you on the basis of sex. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the University failed to promptly and equitably respond to your report of sexual assault, and, as a result, you were subjected to a sexually hostile environment.

If you disagree with the way OCR stated your allegations, please contact the OCR staff persons identified below within 10 days of the date of this letter.

OCR enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department. Because the University receives Federal financial assistance from the Department, OCR has jurisdiction over it pursuant to Title IX.

Because OCR determined that it has jurisdiction and that the complaint was timely filed, OCR is opening the complaint for investigation. Please note that opening the complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from you, the University, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and fully responds to the complaint in accordance with the provisions of the *Case Processing Manual*, available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.pdf>.

Please be advised that the University must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under

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a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, or participates in an OCR proceeding. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, we will seek to protect personally identifiable information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy if released, to the extent provided by law.

If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Shofar, the OCR attorney assigned to this complaint, at 202-453-5929 or samantha.shofar@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



David Hensel
Team Leader
District of Columbia Office
Office for Civil Rights