

Track 1: Federal Mandated Hearing Process

Track 1: The Federal Mandated Hearing Process (“Track 1”) is applicable instead of the processes under the Interim CSU Nondiscrimination Policy – Student Respondent Procedures and the Interim CSU Nondiscrimination Policy – Employee and Third-Party Respondent Procedures for cases that are defined by the 2020 Title IX Federal Regulations as sexual harassment in an education program or activity against a person (including, but not limited to students and employees) in the United States.

Background

In 2020, the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued and amended federal regulations (Federal Regulations) implementing the sex discrimination law known as "Title IX," which is part of the Education Amendments of 1972. The Federal Regulations are titled *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance* (34 C.F.R. 106). The Federal Regulations were published in the Federal Register on May 19, 2020, and took effect August 14, 2020.

In 2024, OCR issued amended federal regulations. However, on January 9, 2025, a federal judge in Kentucky vacated the 2024 Title IX Regulations. This meant that the regulations were no longer applicable nationwide. On January 31, 2025, OCR issued a “Dear Colleague Letter” (“DCL”) which clarified the position of the federal government that the 2020 Title IX Regulations are in immediate effect. A subsequent DCL was issued on February 4, 2025, providing further clarification of the position of the Department of Education. The February 4, 2025, DCL directed educational institutions to apply the 2020 Title IX Regulations to all new cases and to reevaluate any pending cases to ensure they align with the 2020 Title IX Regulations. The procedures in this document – Track 1 – implement the requirements of the 2020 Title IX Regulations.

Article I. Procedure Scope and Applicability of Track 1

Track 1 is applicable to cases that are defined by the 2020 Federal Regulations as Sexual Harassment in an Education Program or Activity against a person (including Students and Employees of the CSU) in the United States (Title IX prohibited conduct).

The Title IX Coordinator and the DHR Administrator, will assess allegations of non-Title IX prohibited conduct not covered by Track 1 but set forth in the same Complaint that arise out of the same facts and/or incidents that may also be investigated and resolved (including sanctions and discipline) in accordance with the process in Track 1 or other CSU policies or procedures.

Article II. Definitions

Track 1 (Title IX) prohibited conduct is defined under Article V.B of the CSU Nondiscrimination Policy. Capitalized terms are defined in this document (Track 1) and in Article V.C of the Nondiscrimination Policy. In implementing this process, the Track 1 definitions apply where they differ from those listed in Article V.C of the Nondiscrimination Policy. For purposes of Track 1 specifically, the following definitions apply:

- A. **Affirmative Consent** means an agreement to engage in sexual activity that is informed, affirmative, conscious, voluntary, and mutual. Affirmative Consent must be given freely and without coercion, force, threats, intimidation, or by taking advantage of another person’s incapacitation. It is the responsibility of each person involved in the sexual activity to ensure Affirmative Consent has been obtained from the other participant(s) prior to engaging in the sexual activity.

1. Affirmative consent is given by clear words or actions. Affirmative consent includes knowledge and agreement to engage in the specific sexual activity.
2. Affirmative Consent must be ongoing throughout a sexual activity and can be withdrawn or revoked at any time, including after sexual activity begins. Once consent is withdrawn or revoked and clearly communicated, the sexual activity must stop immediately.
3. Consent to one form of sexual activity or one sexual act does not constitute consent to other forms of sexual activity. Consent given to sexual activity on one occasion does not constitute consent on another occasion.
4. Affirmative Consent cannot be inferred from an existing or previous dating, social, or sexual relationship between the Parties.
5. Silence does not mean there is Affirmative Consent.
6. Lack of protest or resistance does not mean there is Affirmative Consent.
7. A request for someone to use a condom or birth control does not, in and of itself, mean there is Affirmative Consent.
8. Affirmative Consent cannot be given by a person who is incapacitated. A person is unable to consent when asleep, unconscious, or incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication.

B. Bias and Conflict of Interest means that whether bias exists against Complainants or Respondents generally or against individual Complainants or Respondents, requires examination of the particular facts of a situation. In determining whether bias exists, the following should be considered:

1. an objective (whether a reasonable person would believe bias exists), common sense approach to evaluating whether a particular person serving in a Title IX role is biased;
2. an evaluation that does not apply generalizations that might unreasonably conclude that bias exists (for example, assuming that a declaration that one is a feminist, or survivor, means that they are biased against men, or that a male is incapable of being sensitive to women, or that prior work as a victim advocate, or as a defense attorney, renders the person biased for or against Complainants or Respondents); and
3. whether the bias will impede the impartiality of the person being evaluated.

C. Complainantⁱ means an individual who is alleged to have been subjected to conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy.

D. Directly Related means anything that is not incidental to a matter at issue.

E. Education Program or Activity includes all the operations of the CSU as well as locations, events, or circumstances over which the CSU exercised substantial control over the Respondent (Student, Employee, or Third Party) **and** the context in which the Sexual Harassment occurs. Education Program or Activity also includes any building owned or controlled by the CSU or a student organization that is officially recognized by the CSU.

F. Formal Complaint means a document or electronic submission filed by a Complainant that contains the Complainant's physical or digital signatureⁱⁱ or a document signed by the Title IX Coordinatorⁱⁱⁱ alleging Sexual Harassment against a Respondent and requesting an investigation of the allegation of Sexual Harassment. At the time that the Formal Complaint is filed, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in an Education Program or Activity of the CSU.

G. Incapacitation: A person is incapacitated if they lack the physical and/or mental ability to make informed, rational decisions about whether or not to engage in sexual activity. A person with a medical or mental disability may also lack the capacity to give consent. Incapacitation exists when a person could not understand the fact, nature, or extent of the sexual activity.

1. It shall not be a valid excuse that a person affirmatively consented to the sexual activity if the Respondent knew or reasonably should have known that the person was unable to consent to the sexual activity under any of the following circumstances:
 - a) The person was asleep or unconscious;
 - b) The person was incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication, so that the person could not understand the fact, nature, or extent of the sexual activity; or
 - c) The person was unable to communicate due to a physical or mental condition.
2. It shall not be a valid excuse that the Respondent believed that the person consented to the sexual activity under either of the following circumstances:
 - a) The Respondent's belief in Affirmative Consent arose from the intoxication or recklessness of the Respondent;
 - b) The Respondent did not take reasonable steps, in the circumstances known to the Respondent at the time, to ascertain whether the person affirmatively consented.
3. Whether an intoxicated person (as a result of using alcohol, drugs, or medication) is incapacitated will require an individualized determination about the extent to which the alcohol or other drugs impact the person's decision-making ability, awareness of consequences, and ability to make informed judgments. The level of intoxication may change over a period of time based on a variety of individual factors, including the amount of substance consumed, speed of intake, body mass, height, weight, tolerance, food consumption, drinking patterns, and metabolism. A person's own intoxication or incapacitation from drugs or alcohol does not diminish that person's responsibility to obtain Affirmative Consent before engaging in sexual activity.
4. Incapacitation due to alcohol, drugs or medication is a state of intoxication that is so severe that it interferes with a person's capacity to make informed and knowing decisions. A person who is incapacitated may not be able to understand where they are, whom they are with, how they got there, or what is happening. Signs that a person may be incapacitated due to the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a) slurred speech or difficulty communicating clearly;
 - b) clumsiness or lack of physical coordination (e.g., difficulty standing or walking without assistance);
 - c) impaired motor skills (e.g., eating, drinking, texting);
 - d) disorientation regarding time and place;
 - e) difficulty concentrating;
 - f) vomiting;
 - g) combativeness or emotional volatility; or
 - h) sleeping, unconsciousness, or going in and out of consciousness.
5. Incapacitation may also include memory impairment or an inability to recall entire or

partial events (sometimes referred to as “black-out” or “brown-out”). A person may experience this symptom while appearing to be functioning “normally,” including communicating through actions or words that can reasonably and objectively be interpreted as communicating consent to engage in sexual activity. Total or partial loss of memory, alone, may not be sufficient, without additional evidence, to prove that an individual was incapacitated under this Policy. Whether sexual activity under these circumstances constitutes Prohibited Conduct depends on the presence or absence of the outwardly observable factors indicating that an individual is incapacitated, as described above.

6. In evaluating Affirmative Consent in cases involving incapacitation, the CSU considers the totality of available information in determining whether a Respondent knew or reasonably should have known that the Complainant was incapacitated.

H. **Relevant** means having significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand.

- I. **Remedies** are individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant at the conclusion of the Formal Complaint process where the Respondent has been found responsible.

Remedies may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escorts, restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of Remedies.

- J. **Respondent** means an individual who has been alleged to be a perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy.

- K. **Sexual Harassment** means conduct on the basis of Sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. An Employee conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the University on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
2. Unwelcome conduct determined based on the reasonable person standard to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to an Education Program or Activity.

3. **Sexual Assault** includes the following:

- a) **Rape** is the penetration, or attempted penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the Affirmative Consent of the Complainant. Rape also includes the attempted penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the Affirmative Consent of the Complainant, with the present ability and the intent to commit Rape.
- b) **Fondling** is the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the Affirmative Consent of the victim, including instances where the Complainant is incapable of giving Affirmative Consent because of their age or because of their temporary or permanent mental incapacity
- c) **Incest** is sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law.
- d) **Statutory Rape** is sexual intercourse with a person who is under the age of 18

years, the California statutory age of consent. The definition of Affirmative Consent is that under Article VII.A.3 above.

4. **Dating Violence** means physical violence or threat of physical violence committed by a person:
 - I. who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the Complainant; and
 - II. where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - i. The length of the relationship.
 - ii. The type of relationship.
 - iii. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
5. **Domestic Violence** means physical violence or threat of physical violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the Complainant, by a person with whom the Complainant shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the Complainant as a spouse or intimate partner, or by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the Complainant.
6. **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to:
 - a) fear for their safety or the safety of others; or
 - b) suffer substantial emotional distress.

L. **Simultaneously** means at approximately the same time.

M. **Supportive Measures** are individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or Respondent regardless of whether a Formal Complaint is filed. Supportive Measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to CSU Education Programs or Activities without unreasonably burdening the other Party, including to protect the safety of all Parties or the educational environment. Supportive Measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escorts, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of Supportive Measures. Supportive Measures will remain confidential except when it is not possible to maintain confidentiality in order to provide the Supportive Measures.

1. **Review of Supportive Measures** - A Complainant or Respondent may request modification or reversal of a decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate Supportive Measures applicable to them.
2. This request will be reviewed by an appropriate and impartial Employee:
 1. If the original decision about Supportive Measures was made by a person with authority delegated by the Title IX Coordinator/DHR Administrator, the review will be conducted by the Title IX Coordinator/DHR Administrator.
 2. If the original decision about Supportive Measures was made by the Title IX Coordinator/DHR Administrator, the review will be conducted by a Systemwide Director for Civil Rights.

3. If the reviewer determines that the decision to provide, deny, modify, or terminate the Supportive Measure was inconsistent with the Nondiscrimination Policy's requirements, expectations, or standards for Supportive Measures, they may modify or reverse the decision. In making this determination, the reviewer should consider:
 1. Do the Supportive Measures unreasonably burden a Complainant or Respondent?
 2. Are the Supportive Measures punitive?
 3. Are the Supportive Measures reasonably available and restore access to the CSU's programs, activities, or employment?
 4. Are the Supportive Measures being offered or provided during the informal resolution process or formal complaint resolution process?
4. A Complainant or Respondent may also seek additional modification or termination of a Supportive Measure applicable to them if circumstances change materially by contacting the Title IX Coordinator / DHR Administrator.
5. The University will not share information about any Supportive Measures with anyone other than the person to whom they apply, including informing one Party of Supportive Measures provided to another Party, unless necessary to arrange or provide the Supportive Measure or restore or preserve a Party's access to the CSU's education programs, activities, or employment, or when otherwise required by state or federal law.

Article III. Response to Report of Sexual Harassment

A. Response to a Report of Sexual Harassment

After receiving a report of Sexual Harassment, the Title IX Coordinator will contact the Complainant promptly to discuss the availability of Supportive Measures. This outreach to the Complainant will include the following:

1. A statement that the campus has received a report of Sexual Harassment as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy.
2. A description of the role of the Title IX Coordinator.
3. Information regarding counseling and other support resources.
4. A statement regarding the importance of preserving evidence.
5. A statement that the Complainant may, but is not required to, report to law enforcement any allegations that could constitute criminal behavior.
6. A request for the Complainant to meet with the Title IX Coordinator, or other designated employee, to discuss the Complainant's options and next steps.
7. A statement that the Complainant can be accompanied by an Advisor of their choice during any meeting relating to the report and any subsequent Complaint process.
8. Information regarding potential Supportive Measures, where applicable.
9. A brief summary of the investigation procedures.
10. An explanation of how the campus responds to reports of Nondiscrimination Policy violations and a description of potential disciplinary consequences.
11. A statement that retaliation for making a Complaint or participating in a Complaint process is prohibited by the Nondiscrimination Policy.

B. Written Information Regarding Rights and Options for Complainants Reporting Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking

Along with the information provided in the outreach communication, the Title IX Coordinator will provide Complainants alleging Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence or Stalking, with the information in Attachment D to the Nondiscrimination Policy - Rights and Options for Victims of Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Dating And Domestic Violence, And Stalking.

C. Response to a Formal Complaint

In response to a Formal Complaint, the process described in this Track will be followed. In the absence of a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide appropriate Supportive Measures as described above. A Formal Complaint must be investigated even if the Complainant does not know the Respondent's identity. The Title IX Coordinator will conduct an intake meeting with any Complainant who responds to outreach communication, or otherwise makes a report of a potential Nondiscrimination Policy violation to discuss the Complainant's options, explain the process, and provide information about

Supportive Measures. During the discussion, the Title IX Coordinator will consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to Supportive Measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of Supportive Measures with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint, and explain the process for filing a Formal Complaint.

- D. **Reasonable Accommodations** Any person with a Disability who seeks reasonable accommodations to participate in the Formal Complaint submission or investigation process will be referred to the appropriate campus administrator (for Students, the services for students with disabilities administrator, and for Employees the appropriate human resources administrator) who may consult with the Title IX Coordinator to determine the reasonableness of a requested accommodation.
- E. **Neutrality of Process** the Title IX Coordinator will make reasonable efforts to ensure that anyone involved in conducting investigations, finding facts, and making disciplinary decisions in a matter will be impartial, neutral, and free from actual Conflicts of Interest. A Conflict of Interest exists if a person has a personal relationship with one of the Parties or witnesses, has a reporting employment relationship with a Party, or has demonstrated actual bias towards a Party or witness or towards Complainants or Respondents in general. Any party who seeks to disqualify the Title IX Coordinator due to bias or a Conflict of Interest will direct their request to the Chancellor's Office Appeals Unit at CO-Appeals@calstate.edu. Requests for disqualification shall be supported by evidence that the Bias or Conflict of Interest prevents the Title IX Coordinator from fairly performing their duties. Mere belief or opinion does not constitute evidence.
- F. **Emergency Removal** A Student Respondent may be removed from an Education Program or Activity on an emergency basis before an investigation concludes or where no investigation or hearing is pending. Prior to the removal, an individualized safety and risk analysis will be conducted.

The removal is referred to as an "Emergency Removal," and has the effects of an Interim Suspension, as set forth in the [Student Conduct Process, Article VI](#), including that during the period of the Emergency Removal, the Student may not, without prior written permission from the Campus president or designee, enter any campus of the California State University other than to attend a hearing.

As with Interim Suspensions, as set forth in the [Student Conduct Process, Article VI](#), the president or vice president designee, in consultation with the Title IX Coordinator, will determine whether there is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any Student or other individual arising from the allegations of Sexual Harassment to warrant Emergency Removal. An assessment that the Respondent poses a threat of obstructing the Sexual Harassment investigation or destroying Relevant evidence does not justify Emergency Removal.

Where a determination is made that justifies Emergency Removal, the Respondent will be provided with notice and given an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal, in accordance with the procedures set forth in the [Student Conduct Process, Article VI](#), including the right to a hearing within **10 Working Days** of a request by the Respondent for such a hearing, to determine if there is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of a Student or other individual arising from the allegations of Sexual Harassment. The hearing will be conducted under the [Student Conduct Process, Article III.D](#), and not this Track as it relates to hearings.

If it is determined that the alleged conduct does not arise from the Sexual Harassment allegation/s, the campus may address a Student Respondent's alleged conduct under the Student Conduct Code.

- G. **Administrative Leave (Temporary Suspension)** A campus may place a non-student Employee on Administrative Leave (sometimes referred to as Temporary Suspension) in accordance with applicable Collective Bargaining Agreements or CSU policies while the Formal Complaint process is pending.

Article IV. Dismissal/Referral of a Formal Complaint

When the Title IX Coordinator receives a Formal Complaint, or where new information or events arise, the Title IX Coordinator will assess whether the Formal Complaint meets the requirements of the Federal Regulations to move forward under the process in this Track. A determination that allegations in a Formal Complaint do not meet the requirements of the Federal Regulations will result in a dismissal of the

allegations in the Formal Complaint that do not meet the requirements and, in some cases, a referral of the allegations to another process as the campus may have an obligation to address the matter under other laws and policies. The Federal Regulations require two types of dismissals: mandatory and discretionary.

A. Mandatory Dismissal/Referral

The Title IX Coordinator will determine whether allegations in a Formal Complaint must be dismissed for purposes of the Federal Regulations.

If a Formal Complaint is dismissed it may still be referred, if appropriate, to be addressed under the processes in the CSU Nondiscrimination Policy – Student Respondent Procedures (Track 2 or Track 3) and the CSU Nondiscrimination Policy – Employee and Third-Party Respondent Procedures (Track 3), Student Conduct Process, or other applicable policies.

Under the Federal Mandated Hearing Process, a Formal Complaint will be dismissed as to any conduct alleged that:

1. Would not meet the definition of Sexual Harassment as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy even if proved.
2. Did not occur in an Education Program or Activity.
3. Did not occur in the United States.

B. Discretionary Dismissal

At any time during the process, it is within the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator to dismiss a Formal Complaint, or any conduct alleged within a Formal Complaint, where:

1. A Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any part of it;
2. The Respondent is no longer a Student or Employee; or
3. If the specific circumstances prevent the campus from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.

C. Notice Requirement

Written notice of a mandatory or discretionary dismissal and reason(s) for the dismissal will be sent Simultaneously to the Parties when a Title IX Coordinator dismisses a Formal Complaint. The notice will inform the Parties of their right to appeal the dismissal, whether the matter will be referred to another process, and the process for submitting an appeal. This notice may be accompanied by a notice of allegations, as described in Article VI. below, where a notice of allegations has not already been provided.

D. Appeal after Mandatory or Discretionary Dismissal

Either Party may appeal from a dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any part of the Complaint. The appeal must be filed within **10 Working Days** from the date of the notice of dismissal. The appeal will be in writing and will be based only on one or more of the following grounds:

1. A procedural irregularity occurred that affected the dismissal of the Formal Complaint.
2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the dismissal decision was made that could affect the decision to dismiss the Formal Complaint.
3. The Title IX Coordinator (or designee) who dismissed the Formal Complaint, had a Conflict of Interest or Bias for or against the Complainant or Respondent in this case or Complainants or Respondents in general that affected the outcome of the matter.

Appeals will be filed with the Chancellor's Office (CO) and will be addressed to:

Civil Rights Appeals Unit

Office of the Chancellor

401 Golden Shore

Long Beach, California 90802

CO-Appeals@calstate.edu

If a Party is unable to file an appeal or a response to an appeal electronically, they should contact the

campus Title IX Office for assistance.

When an appeal is submitted, the other Party as well as the campus Title IX Coordinator will be notified in writing. In response to the appeal, the other Party will be given **5 Working Days** from their receipt of notice of the appeal to submit a written statement in support of or challenging the dismissal. Within **10 Working Days** of the CO's receipt of the appeal, the Parties will Simultaneously receive (via email) a written decision with explanation.

The CO review will not involve a new assessment of the dismissal/referral or consideration of evidence that was not introduced during the campus review, unless the new evidence was not reasonably available at the time of the campus review.

If the CO review determines that the dismissal/referral should be reviewed to cure any defects, the matter will be remanded back to the campus to reassess within a timeframe specified by the CO. The Parties will be informed Simultaneously of the review and the timeframe. Once the review is complete the campus will provide the Parties and the CO with either a notice of dismissal/referral or notice of allegations, depending on the outcome, that reflects any changes to the determination. The notice will inform the Parties of their right to appeal, and the CO will contact the appealing Party to determine whether that Party wishes to continue with the appeal.

The CO appeal response is final and concludes the dismissal/referral process under Track 1. If there is a mandatory dismissal of a Formal Complaint, it does not preclude the campus from later identifying a relevant policy or policies that address the alleged conduct, notifying the Parties of the policy or policies, and moving forward under the procedures of those policies.

Article V. Consolidation of Formal Complaints

Where Parties assert Formal Complaints against each other, and they arise out of the same events or circumstances, the Title IX Coordinator may consolidate the Formal Complaints into one.

Article VI. Notice of Allegations

When the Title IX Coordinator receives a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will Simultaneously provide both Parties a written notice of allegations.

The notice of allegations will be provided to both Parties regardless of whether the Formal Complaint must be dismissed under Article IV. If a Formal Complaint is dismissed at this stage of the process, the notice of allegations will also include the notice of dismissal and appeal rights.

The notice of allegations will include:

- A. A copy of, or web link to, the relevant procedures, including this Track.
- B. The identities of the Parties involved in the incident, if known.
- C. A summary of the Formal Complaint (e.g., "who," "what," "when," and "where").
- D. Reference to the specific definition of Sexual Harassment under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy that is implicated in the Formal Complaint.
- E. A statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the Formal Complaint process.
- F. A description of the Formal Complaint process (including the right to hearing and appeal).
- G. Information about the Parties' right to an Advisor (as defined below), and that an Advisor may be, but is not required to be, an attorney.
- H. A statement that if a Party has an Advisor (as defined below), a copy of evidence and a subsequent final investigation report will be Simultaneously sent to both the Party and their Advisor unless the Party notifies the Investigator or Title IX Coordinator in writing that they do not wish this information to be sent to their Advisor.
- I. A statement that reads as follows: "A Complainant shall proceed with a Formal Complaint in good

faith and a Complainant who knowingly and intentionally files a false Formal Complaint or any individual who is determined to have provided false statements or information during the investigation/appeal review shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Conduct Code, applicable collective bargaining agreements, CSU policies, or legal requirements (e.g., Education Code Section 89530 et seq.). Likewise, the Respondent and witnesses are required to cooperate with the investigation including being forthright and honest during the process. The mere fact that two individuals have different recollections, and one is later found to be more credible does not make the other person's statement false. Disciplinary action against an individual for knowingly filing a false Formal Complaint or for providing a knowingly false statement will not be deemed to be Retaliation".

- J. An explanation that the Complainant and Respondent will have equal opportunities to present Relevant witnesses and inculpatory and exculpatory evidence in connection with the investigation and at any hearing.
- K. A statement that the Parties may identify specific documents and information that they believe are Relevant and request that the Investigator attempt to collect such documents and other information that are not reasonably accessible to the requesting Party.
- L. The estimated timeline for completion of the investigation.
- M. A statement that upon request, the Complainant and Respondent will be advised of the status of the investigation.
- N. A description of the University's policy against Retaliation, as defined under Article V.A.10 of the Nondiscrimination Policy.

If new allegations are raised during the investigation that were not included in the notice of allegations, a revised notice of allegations will be issued Simultaneously to the Parties.

If the notice of allegations also serves as notice of a Respondent's expected attendance at an interview, it will include details of the **date, time, location, participants, and purpose of that interview**. The notice of allegations must be provided to a Respondent at least **5 Working Days** prior to the interview.

If a Respondent requests to meet sooner than **5 Working Days** after receipt of the notice of allegations, they should verbally confirm at the start of the meeting that they are aware that they were provided notice of at least **5 Working Days** and this confirmation should be documented by the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator.

Article VII. Informal Resolution

At any time prior to the issuance of the Hearing Officer's Report, if the Title IX Coordinator or either Party believes that it may be possible to resolve the Formal Complaint in a prompt, fair, and reasonable manner without a hearing, the Parties may consider an Informal Resolution that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication, subject to the following:

- A. Informal Resolution under Track 1 may **only** be offered where a Formal Complaint has been filed.
- B. The campus cannot offer or facilitate Informal Resolution under Track 1 to resolve allegations that an Employee sexually harassed a Student.
- C. The campus must obtain the Parties' voluntary, written consent before starting the Informal Resolution process.

Once the Title IX Coordinator determines that Informal Resolution is appropriate, the Parties should Simultaneously be provided written notice regarding Informal Resolution that includes the following:

- A. The allegations of Sexual Harassment, as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy.
- B. The requirements of the Informal Resolution process including that once the Informal Resolution process is finalized neither Party is permitted to file another Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations.
- C. An explanation that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any Party has the right to

- withdraw from the Informal Resolution process and resume the Formal Complaint process.
- D. An explanation of any consequences resulting from participating in the Informal Resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.
- E. The Parties' right to consult with an Advisor, if any.

The Title IX Coordinator will oversee the Informal Resolution process and make the final determination on all Informal Resolutions facilitated by the Title IX Coordinator or designee regarding whether the terms agreed to by the Parties are appropriate in light of all of the circumstances of the Formal Complaint.

The Informal Resolution process will be completed prior to any determination of responsibility being made, but no later than **60 Working Days** after both Parties provide voluntary, written consent to participate in the Informal Resolution process.

The campus may not require the Parties to participate in an Informal Resolution process Track 1, nor may a Party be required to waive their right to the investigation and adjudication of a Formal Complaint as a condition of enrollment or employment, or continuing enrollment or employment.

The terms of any Informal Resolution must be put in writing and signed by the Parties, and the Title IX Coordinator. Prior to signing the Informal Resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will consult with the student conduct administrator and/or other appropriate campus administrator responsible for the implementation of the terms. Use of electronic signatures is permitted.

Any agreed-upon Remedies and disciplinary sanctions will have the force and effect of sanctions imposed following a hearing.

The resolution will be final and not appealable by either Party.

Article VIII. Investigation of a Formal Complaint

The Title IX Coordinator will either promptly investigate the Formal Complaint or assign this task to another Investigator. If assigned to another Investigator, the Title IX Coordinator will monitor, supervise, and oversee all such delegated tasks, including reviewing all investigation draft reports before they are final to ensure that the investigation is sufficient, appropriate, impartial, and in compliance with this Track.

A. Gathering of Evidence

The burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rests on the campus and not on the Parties. The investigator will take reasonable steps to gather all relevant evidence from the Parties, other witnesses, or other sources. The investigator will document the steps taken to gather evidence, even when those efforts are not successful.

Parties should be aware that **all** evidence Directly Related to the investigation will be provided to the other Party, subject to the exceptions described below.

The campus cannot access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a Party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the Party, unless the campus obtains that Party's voluntary, written consent to do so for a Formal Complaint process under this Track^{iv}.

The campus will not restrict the ability of either Party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present Relevant evidence (for example, contacting a potential witness).

B. Advisors

The Complainant and the Respondent may each elect to be accompanied by an Advisor to any meeting, interview, or proceeding regarding the allegations that are the subject of a Formal Complaint. The advisor may be anyone, including a union representative from the Complainant's

or Respondent's collective bargaining unit, an attorney, or, in the case of the Complainant, a Sexual Assault Victim's Advocate.

The Advisor may not answer questions regarding the subject matter of the investigation for the Complainant or the Respondent or speak on behalf of a Complainant or Respondent. However, the Advisor may observe and consult with the Complainant or Respondent.

Hearing Advisors

The Complainant and Respondent must have a hearing advisor at the hearing. A hearing advisor will be responsible for asking the other Party and any witnesses all Relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those that challenge credibility, during the hearing. During a hearing, Parties may not ask questions of the other Party or any witnesses. Questioning at the live hearing will be conducted directly, orally, and in real time by the Party's hearing advisor of choice or a hearing advisor provided by the campus if the Party does not have a hearing advisor.

The hearing advisor may be the same person as the advisor. A Party may have both an Advisor and a hearing advisor present at a hearing. If a Party does not have a hearing advisor to perform questioning during the hearing, the campus shall provide the Party with a hearing advisor for this purpose.

Advisors Generally

The Title IX Coordinator or Investigator will explain to the Complainant and Respondent that they may request that their advisor, if any, be copied on communications during the Formal Complaint process. Any such request will be in writing to the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator and should include the Advisor's name and contact information.

The Title IX Coordinator or Investigator will also explain that Advisors **will** receive a copy of the evidence and Final Investigation Report, unless the Party specifically directs in writing that this information should not be sent to their Advisor.

Although reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate hearing advisors and Advisors, undue delays affecting the complaint resolution timeline will not be permitted. Disruptive, abusive, or disrespectful behavior also will not be tolerated. At the discretion of the investigator or Title IX Coordinator during meetings or interviews and of the hearing officer during hearings, a hearing advisor or Advisor who engages in disruptive, abusive, or disrespectful behavior will not be permitted to participate. If a hearing advisor is excused during a hearing, the campus will either provide a Party with another hearing advisor or allow the Party to obtain another hearing advisor. It is within the hearing officer's discretion to proceed with or postpone the hearing in order to address the situation.

C. Notice of Meetings, Interviews and Hearings

Parties will be provided written notice of the **date, time, location, names of participants, and purpose** of all meetings and investigative interviews at which their participation is expected. This written notice should be provided with at least **3 Working Days** for the Party to prepare to participate in the meeting or interview. This requirement will not apply where a Party themselves requests to meet with the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator or as addressed in Article VI of this Track.

If a Party requests to meet with the Title IX Coordinator sooner than **3 Working Days** after receipt of written notice of an investigative interview or meeting, they should verbally confirm at the start of the interview or meeting that they are aware that they were provided notice of at least **3 Working Days** and this confirmation should be documented by the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator.

D. Review of Evidence

Before issuing a final investigation report, the investigator will send to the Complainant and Respondent, and their respective advisors,^v if any, **all** evidence (including evidence upon which the campus does not intend to rely) obtained as part of the investigation that is Directly Related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint (preliminary investigation report). This includes inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a Party or other source, redacted if required by law.

The requirement to provide all Directly Related evidence does not include illegally obtained evidence (e.g., conversations recorded without the consent of the participants). Neither the preliminary nor final investigation report will include information protected by a legally recognized privilege, the Complainant's sexual history, or a Party's treatment records if the Party

has not given voluntary, written consent to the disclosure of those treatment records.

The preliminary investigation report will: (a) describe the allegations; (b) identify the material facts—undisputed and disputed—with explanations as to why any material fact is disputed; and (c) describe the evidence presented and considered. Where not contained within the preliminary investigation report itself, evidence should be attached to the preliminary investigation report as exhibits.

The preliminary investigation report and any exhibits must be sent in electronic format (which may include use of a file sharing platform that restricts the Parties and any advisors from downloading or copying the evidence) **or** hard copy. The Investigator may use discretion in determining how to send the preliminary investigation report to the Parties and their advisors, if any, in light of the particular circumstances and any Party or witness privacy concerns.

This process is collectively referred to as the "review of evidence."

Each Party will be given a minimum of **10 Working Days** for the initial review of evidence to respond to the list of disputed facts and evidence and submit additional questions for the other Party and witnesses. This timeframe may be extended at the discretion of the Title IX Coordinator (either on their own or in response to a Party's request). The extension must be made available to both Parties, who must be notified as such. During the review of evidence, each Party may:

1. Meet again with the investigator to further discuss the allegations.
2. Identify additional disputed facts.
3. Respond to the evidence in writing.
4. Request that the investigator ask additional specific questions to the other Party and other witnesses.
5. Identify additional relevant witnesses.
6. Request that the investigator gather additional evidence.

The investigator will share with the Parties the answers to questions posed during the review of evidence. If additional disputed material facts are identified or evidence is gathered, it will be included in the preliminary investigation report (or in a separate addendum) and shared with all Parties, who will be given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the new evidence and submit additional questions to the other Party and other witnesses about the new evidence only. The investigator determines when it is appropriate to conclude the review of evidence.

E. Final Investigation Report

After the review of evidence phase is concluded, the Parties will receive a final investigation report that will summarize all **Relevant** evidence (inculpatory and exculpatory), including additional Relevant evidence received during the review of evidence. Any Relevant documentary or other tangible evidence provided by the Parties or witnesses, or otherwise gathered by the Investigator will be attached to the final investigation report as exhibits.

As part of an Informal Resolution, at the request of both Parties, campuses will provide a written preliminary assessment of the evidence by the Title IX Coordinator. Neither the fact nor the substance of the assessment will be shared with the hearing officer or considered Relevant at the hearing.

The final investigation report shall be sent to the Parties and their respective advisors, if any, in electronic format (which may include use of a file sharing platform that restricts the Parties and any Advisors from downloading or copying the evidence) **or** hard copy. The Parties and their advisors will be provided **10 Working Days** to review and provide a written response to the final investigation report. Campuses will inform Parties not to include any reference to the preliminary assessment and that any such references will be redacted.

The written response will be attached to the final investigation report and provided to the hearing officer, if appropriate, and the Parties. Any references to a preliminary assessment, assuming one was requested, will be redacted from this written response. No documentation should be provided to the hearing officer if an Informal Resolution is reached.

F. Timeframe for Completion of Investigation

Absent a determination of good cause made by the investigator or Title IX Coordinator (of which the Parties will receive written notice): (i) the investigation should be concluded within **100 Working Days** from the date that the notice of allegations is provided to the Parties; and (ii) the final investigation report should be completed and provided to the Parties within **10 Working**

Days after the review of evidence has concluded. Extensions may be granted for good cause as determined by the Title IX Coordinator. The Parties will receive written notice from the Title IX Coordinator or designee if an extension is necessary and why. The notice will indicate if the extension alters the timeframes for the major stages of the Formal Complaint process. Within **10 Working Days** after the Parties have been provided the final investigation report, the Parties will be informed of the timelines that will apply to the pre-hearing and hearing processes described in Article IX below. The Parties will be required to provide the name and contact information for their hearing advisor within **5 Working Days** after notice of the hearing timeline.

Article IX. Hearing

1. A hearing coordinator, (either the student conduct administrator, Title IX Coordinator, or other appropriate administrator) will be responsible for coordinating the hearing process. The hearing coordinator's duties will include: scheduling the hearing; notifying witnesses of the hearing; ensuring that the hearing officer is provided with appropriate materials including a copy of the report and any exhibits; coordinating videoconferencing; and securing a location for the hearing (if necessary). The hearing coordinator will also act as liaison between the Parties and the hearing officer on procedural matters.
2. The Parties will be given written notice of the **date, time, location, participants, and purpose of the hearing**, as well as the **identity of the hearing officer**. Notification of the hearing will be sent to the designated CSU campus email address, unless the recipient has specifically requested in writing to the hearing coordinator that notice be given to a different email address. Communications from the hearing coordinator will be deemed received on the date sent. The hearing will not be set sooner than **20 Working Days** after the date of notice of hearing.
3. Timelines:

Objection to Hearing Officer

Any objections to an appointed hearing officer must be made in writing to the hearing Coordinator within **5 Working Days** after notice of the identity of the hearing officer has been communicated to the Parties.

The objection may only be based on an actual Conflict of Interest. A Conflict of Interest exists if the hearing officer has a personal relationship with one of the Parties or witnesses or has demonstrated actual bias towards a Party or witness.

The fact that a hearing officer has previously served as a hearing officer in a campus proceeding will not constitute a Conflict of Interest. The hearing coordinator will determine if a Conflict of Interest exists. In that event, the Parties will be notified in writing of the name of the new hearing officer. The date for the hearing may need to be rescheduled. Any objection to the new hearing officer will be made in accordance with this section.

Pre-Hearing Process

No later than **15 Working Days** before the hearing, each Party may:

- a. Provide to the hearing coordinator a proposed witness list that includes the names of, and current contact information for, that Party's proposed witnesses as well as an explanation of the relevance of each proposed witness's testimony and the disputed issue to which the witness's testimony relates. The hearing officer may also identify witnesses from the final investigation report.

No later than **10 Working Days** before the hearing, the hearing coordinator will:

- a. Share a final witness list with the Parties;
- b. Notify each witness of the date, time, and location of the hearing. Witnesses will be directed to attend the hearing and to promptly direct any questions or concerns about their attendance at the hearing to the hearing coordinator.

No later than **5 Working Days** prior to the hearing, the Parties may submit a list of proposed questions to the hearing coordinator. The questions will be provided to the hearing officer. Parties

are strongly encouraged to provide questions in advance of the hearing in order to streamline the hearing process and provide the hearing officer an opportunity to resolve relevancy concerns prior to the hearing. The proposed questions will not be shared with the other Party.

The hearing officer will make all determinations regarding pre-hearing matters, including which witnesses have Relevant testimony and will participate and which questions, if submitted, are Relevant and will promptly notify the hearing coordinator who, in turn, will promptly notify the Parties.

The hearing is closed to all persons except the Parties; the Parties' respective hearing advisors; one Advisor for each Party; appropriate witnesses while they are testifying; the student conduct administrator or human resources officer; Title IX Coordinator; Title IX Investigator; hearing officer; hearing coordinator; and any person necessary to create a formal record of the proceeding (including a technological support, videographer, or similar role.) A CSU administrator may also be present but will not participate in the hearing. Campus police or a security officer may also be present if deemed appropriate or necessary by the appropriate campus administrator, hearing coordinator, or hearing officer.

4. The campus will direct witnesses who are CSU Employees to attend the hearing. Any Employees, including those in bargaining units, who fail to comply with any such directive may be subject to discipline under the applicable provisions of their collective bargaining agreement or other CSU policy. The campus will take reasonable steps to arrange for Employee witnesses to be available to attend, provided that such Employee witnesses are timely identified to the hearing coordinator in accordance with this Track.
5. The campus will direct Student witnesses to attend the hearing, provided that such Student witnesses are timely identified to the hearing coordinator in accordance with this Track. Students who fail to comply may be subject to discipline, depending on the circumstances. The campus will take reasonable steps to accommodate Student witnesses including arranging for them to be excused from class attendance, if necessary.
6. The campus will make all evidence provided during the investigation, including during review of evidence available at any hearing to give each Party and the hearing officer the opportunity to refer to such evidence during the hearing. This includes evidence upon which the campus does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding the Respondent's responsibility.

Hearing Process

7. Live hearings will be conducted using videoconferencing technology unless circumstances are such that videoconferencing would not be appropriate. Neither Party will be required to be physically present in the same room as the hearing officer, each other, or witnesses. The campus will utilize technology that ensures that Parties will be able to Simultaneously see and hear all of the proceedings and testimony.
8. The hearing will begin with an overview of the hearing process given by the hearing officer, after which the Parties will be given an opportunity to ask questions about the hearing process. Each Party will be given an opportunity to make an opening statement that may not last longer than 10 minutes. Only the Parties themselves will be permitted to make opening statements. The hearing advisor and any advisor are not permitted to make the opening statement. The advisor may not speak during the hearing. Closing arguments will not be made.
9. Each Party is required to have a hearing advisor for purposes of questioning the other Party and witnesses during the hearing. If a Party does not have a hearing advisor prior to the hearing or at the start of the hearing, one will be provided to that Party for the purposes of asking the other Party and any witnesses all Relevant questions and follow-up questions, including those questions challenging credibility. If a Party's hearing advisor does not appear or is excused for conduct that causes a material disruption, a hearing advisor will be provided. In either case, the hearing officer has discretion to proceed with or postpone the hearing.

Questioning

Generally, the hearing officer will start the questioning of witnesses and Parties. The Investigator or the Title IX Coordinator (if not the Investigator) will be the first witness and will describe the

Formal Complaint, investigation process, and summarize the evidence. Hearing advisors will be permitted to ask Relevant questions once the hearing officer has concluded their questioning of the other Party and each witness.

10. The hearing officer may ask questions of any Party or witness who participates in the hearing.
 - a. The Complainant and Respondent may be present (physically or virtually) at all times during the hearing.
 - b. Parties themselves may not directly ask questions of each other and witnesses.
 - c. Each Party's hearing advisor is permitted to ask all Relevant questions of the other Party, the Investigator, and any witnesses, and is also permitted to ask follow-up questions, including those questions challenging credibility. A Party may not be directly questioned by their own hearing advisor. The hearing officer controls the hearing and determines whether a question is Relevant.
 - d. A question is not considered Relevant if it relates to the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior, unless such question about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior is offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the question concerns specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and is asked to prove consent.
 - e. Even if a question relates to a Relevant subject or issue, the hearing officer may determine that the Party or witness being asked the question is not required to answer if the question is repetitive or duplicative of prior questions.
 - f. The hearing officer has the discretion to request information from the Parties or hearing advisors regarding questions prior to making a determination about the relevancy of the question. Neither the Parties nor hearing advisors may assert objections to questions.
 - g. Immediately after each question is asked by the hearing advisor, and before the question is answered, the hearing officer will indicate whether the question is Relevant, and if it is not, provide an explanation as to why the question is excluded as not Relevant. A Complainant, Respondent, or witness will only answer questions posed by a hearing advisor that the hearing officer determines are Relevant.
 - h. In addition to the relevance requirement, all questions must be asked in a respectful, non-abusive manner. The hearing officer determines whether a question satisfies this requirement and may require that the hearing advisor rephrase a relevant question or repeat the question in a respectful manner when the hearing officer determines that the question was asked in a disrespectful or abusive manner.
 - i. Abusive or otherwise disorderly behavior that causes a material disruption will not be tolerated. The hearing officer may excuse from the hearing anyone (including either Party or their hearing advisor or Advisor) whose behavior causes a material disruption. Should a hearing advisor be removed from a proceeding, the campus will provide a hearing advisor. The hearing officer, in their discretion, may postpone the hearing. In making a determination whether to postpone the hearing, the hearing officer will consider the equity of postponement as to both Parties.
11. Formal rules of evidence applied in courtroom proceedings (e.g., California Evidence Code) do not apply in the hearing. All Relevant information is considered.
12. Hearsay may be considered but will only be given the weight appropriate under all of the circumstances, with due consideration given to the importance of credibility assessment. Absent extenuating circumstances, the hearing officer will not rely on prior statements made by the Parties or witnesses during the investigation whose credibility is central to the determination unless those Parties or witnesses make themselves available for examination by the hearing officer.

Other Procedural Matters

13. The hearing officer will not, prior to preparing the hearing officer's report (described below), have substantive communications about the facts of the case with either Party or the investigator unless in the presence of both Parties and a campus official (e.g., hearing coordinator, Title IX Coordinator, or student conduct administrator).
14. The campus will make or arrange for an official audio recording of the hearing. The recording

is campus property. No other recording of the hearing is permitted. The audio recording will be retained by the hearing coordinator or designee in accordance with the campus records/information retention and disposition schedule. Parties may request to inspect and review the recording.

15. Absent good cause, the Parties may not introduce evidence, including witness testimony, at the hearing that the Party did not identify during the investigation and that was available at the time of the investigation. The hearing officer has discretion to accept or exclude new evidence offered at the hearing.
16. If either Party fails to appear at the hearing without good cause the hearing will nevertheless proceed. Whether good cause exists is determined by the hearing officer. If a Party fails to appear at the hearing, the hearing advisor for the non-appearing Party will question the other Party.
17. The hearing officer controls the hearing, is responsible for maintaining order during the hearing, and makes whatever rulings are necessary to ensure a fair hearing. The hearing officer's decisions in this regard are final.

Article X. Determination Regarding Responsibility

After the hearing, the hearing officer will make written findings of fact and conclusions about whether the Respondent violated the Nondiscrimination Policy with respect to the definition of Sexual Harassment under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy (hearing officer's report).

The standard of proof the hearing officer will use is whether each allegation is substantiated by a Preponderance of the Evidence. The Title IX Coordinator will review the hearing officer's report to ensure procedural compliance with this Track.

The hearing coordinator will Simultaneously send the hearing officer's report promptly to the Parties, the Title IX Coordinator, and the appropriate campus administrator, usually within **15 Working Days** of the close of the hearing.

The hearing officer's report must include:

1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Harassment as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy – this should include the factual allegations and the corresponding alleged Nondiscrimination Policy violations.
2. The Preponderance of the Evidence standard.
3. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination incorporated by reference to the Final Investigation Report, including any notifications to the Parties, interviews with Parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held.
4. The factual findings and the evidence on which the factual findings are based.
5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility.
6. An explanation as to how the determination concerning the relative credibility or lack of credibility of the Parties or witnesses was reached.
7. Conclusions regarding the application of the policy violations defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy to the facts, including a determination of whether the Nondiscrimination Policy was violated and an analysis of the basis for that determination.
8. A summary of the procedural issues raised by the Parties during the pre-hearing or hearing processes.
9. A list of all questions proposed by the Parties at the hearing, and if any questions were not asked, why.
10. A statement as to whether Remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the campus's education program or activity will be provided by the campus to the Complainant.

If no violation of the Nondiscrimination Policy is found, the president (or designee) will be notified along with the Parties. The notification will include the outcome of the hearing, a copy of the hearing officer's

report (redacted as appropriate or as otherwise required by law) and notice of the Complainant's and Respondent's right to appeal to the Chancellor's Office.

If a violation of the Nondiscrimination Policy is found, within **5 Working Days** of receiving such finding the Parties may submit to the hearing coordinator an impact statement or other statement regarding discipline that is no more than 2000 words in length. The document is an opportunity for the Parties to suggest disciplinary outcomes and to provide information that they believe is important for the hearing officer to consider. The student conduct administrator and/or appropriate campus administrator responsible for discipline and Title IX Coordinator may also submit a written statement regarding aggravating and mitigating factors that provides a recommendation regarding the disciplinary outcome, including information regarding prior disciplinary outcomes for similar conduct and whether the Respondent was previously found to have violated university policy.

Discipline means any disciplinary action taken to correct a violation of the Nondiscrimination Policy, as follows:

1. Discipline for Employees includes, but is not limited to, suspension, demotion, and termination of employment.
2. Discipline for Students includes, but is not limited to, probation, suspension and expulsion and other Sanctions as defined in the Student Conduct Process, Article V.

Within **5 Working Days** after receiving and considering any impact or other statements submitted by the Parties and other statements described above, the hearing officer will submit the hearing officer's report to the president (or designee). The hearing officer's report will be amended to include a statement of, and rationale for, any recommended disciplinary sanctions to be imposed on the Respondent ("final hearing officer's report"). The final hearing officer's report will attach the final investigation report.

In cases where the hearing officer has found a violation of the Nondiscrimination Policy, the president (or designee) will review the final investigation report and the final hearing officer's report and issue a decision ("decision letter") concerning the appropriate sanction or discipline within **10 Working Days** of receipt of the final hearing officer's report.

The president (or designee) may impose the recommended sanctions or discipline, adopt a different sanction or discipline or sanctions or discipline, or reject sanctions or disciplines altogether. If the president (or designee) adopts a sanction or discipline other than what is recommended by the hearing officer, the president (or designee) must set forth the reasons in the decision letter.

The president (or designee) will Simultaneously send the decision letter electronically to the Respondent and Complainant at the campus-assigned or other primary email address linked to their campus accounts.^{vi} The decision letter will also be sent to the student conduct administrator or other appropriate campus administrator responsible for Employee discipline and the hearing officer.

The decision letter will include:

1. The outcome of the hearing, including any sanction imposed, and the name of the Respondent(s).
2. Information regarding the procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant and Respondent to appeal to the Chancellor's Office.
3. If a finding of responsibility is made against the Respondent, a statement as to whether Remedies will be provided to the Complainant that are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the campus's education program or activity. The specifics of any such Remedies may be discussed separately between the Complainant and the Title IX Coordinator and need not be included in the decision letter.
4. A copy of the final hearing officer's report will be attached to the decision letter, redacted as appropriate or as otherwise required by law.

The president will also send the decision letter to the Title IX Coordinator so that they may determine

whether any additional Remedies (or other supportive measure) will be provided or undertaken in order to maintain a safe and nondiscriminatory campus environment.

The determination regarding responsibility and any sanctions become final either on the date that the Chancellor's Office provides the Parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely (**11 Working Days** after the date of the decision letter).

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any Remedies.

Article XI. Appeals

Filing an Appeal to the Chancellor's Office

A written appeal may be submitted to the Chancellor's Office **no later than 10 Working Days** after the date of the decision letter. All arguments and/or evidence supporting the appeal must be submitted by the deadline to file the appeal. Evidence/arguments submitted after the appeal submission deadline will not be considered by the Chancellor's Office. A **written appeal may not exceed 3,500 words, excluding exhibits**. Appeals will be submitted to:

Civil Rights Appeals Unit

Office of the Chancellor

401 Golden Shore

Long Beach, California 90802

CO-Appeals@calstate.edu

Electronic submission to the email address listed above is the preferred method of submitting appeals.

Bases for Appeal

An appeal will be based only on one or more of the appeal issues listed below:

- a. There was no reasonable basis for the findings or conclusions that resulted in the investigation or hearing outcome.
- b. Procedural errors occurred that would have likely changed the outcome of the hearing.
- c. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing and would have likely affected the hearing officer's decision about whether the Respondent violated the Nondiscrimination Policy.
- d. The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, or hearing officer had a Conflict of Interest or Bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant or Respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.
- e. The sanction(s) imposed was objectively unreasonable, or arbitrary based on substantiated conduct.

Issues and Evidence on Appeal

The issues and evidence raised on appeal will be limited to those raised and identified during the hearing, unless new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the hearing and that could change the hearing outcome becomes available after the campus hearing was completed and is submitted by the appealing Party. The Chancellor's Office may conduct an interview, at the Chancellor's Office discretion, with the appealing Party to clarify the written appeal.

Appeal Review

i. **Acknowledgement of Appeal**

The Chancellor's Office will provide prompt written acknowledgement of the receipt of the appeal to the appealing Party, and will provide written notification of the appeal, including a copy of the appeal, to the non-appealing Party and the campus Title IX Coordinator/DHR Administrator. The notice will include the right of the non-appealing Party and the campus to provide a response to the appeal **within 10 Working Days** of the date of the notice. **The appeal response will be limited to 3,500 words, excluding exhibits.** Any response to the appeal received by the Chancellor's Office will be provided to the appealing Party for informational purposes only.

ii. **Reasonable Accommodation**

The Chancellor's Office will provide reasonable accommodation(s) to any Party or witness in the appeal process with a qualified Disability upon request by the person needing the accommodation. A reasonable accommodation may include an extension of time under these procedures. The timeframe for the Chancellor's Office appeal response will automatically be adjusted for the time needed, if any, to provide reasonable accommodation(s).

iii. **Scope of Chancellor's Office Review**

The Chancellor's Office will not conduct a new investigation or hearing; however, the Chancellor's Office may make reasonable inquiries to determine if the new evidence could have affected the hearing determination. On appeal, the Chancellor's Office does not reweigh the evidence, re-decide conflicts in the evidence, or revisit determinations made by the hearing officer about the credibility or reliability of witnesses and the Parties.

iv. **Chancellor's Office Appeal Response**

The Chancellor's Office appeal response will include a summary of the issues raised on appeal, a summary of the evidence considered, the Preponderance of the Evidence standard, and the determination(s) reached regarding the issue(s) identified within the written appeal. A copy of the final Chancellor's Office appeal response will be forwarded to the Complainant, the Respondent, and the Title IX Coordinator.

v. **Reopening a Campus Investigation or Hearing**

If the Chancellor's Office review determines that an issue raised on appeal would have affected the hearing outcome, the hearing will be remanded back to the campus and the hearing reopened at the campus level. The Chancellor's Office will return the matter to the campus and will specify in writing the timeline by which a reopened hearing must be completed. The Chancellor's Office will notify the Parties of the reopening of the hearing and the timeline for completion of the reopened hearing. The campus will complete the reopened hearing and provide the Chancellor's Office with an amended hearing officer's report. The campus will also provide the Parties with amended notices of hearing outcome, and such notices will provide the opportunity to appeal. Upon receipt of the amended hearing officer's report, if the outcome remains unchanged, the Chancellor's Office will contact the original appealing Party to determine whether that Party wishes to continue with the appeal. If the outcome is reversed by the hearing officer, the Parties will be given an opportunity to appeal.

vi. **Reversal by Chancellor's Office**

If the Chancellor's Office determines that no reasonable fact finder (hearing officer) could have made the findings as determined by the hearing officer, the Chancellor's Office may vacate and reverse the hearing outcome, but only with respect to whether the Nondiscrimination Policy was violated (and not with respect to factual findings). If the Chancellor's Office vacates and reverses the outcome, it will notify the Parties Simultaneously in writing, as well as the Title IX Coordinator. Following a reversal of a hearing outcome by the Chancellor's Office, the Chancellor's Office decision is final and is not subject to further appeal. In the event that the final outcome has been reversed by the Chancellor's Office and a sanction will be imposed by the campus, both Parties have a right to appeal the sanction only. If a sanction is found to be objectively unreasonable, or arbitrary based on substantiated conduct, the matter will be sent back to the campus for reconsideration of the sanction.

vii. **Timeline for Chancellor's Office Response to Appeal**

The Chancellor's Office will respond to the appealing Party no later than **30 Working Days** after receipt of the written appeal, unless the timeline has been extended pursuant to Article XI.D.viii, below.

viii. **Timelines and Extensions**

The Chancellor's Office has discretion to extend the timelines for the appeal process for good cause or for any reasons deemed to be legitimate by the Chancellor's Office. This includes the time for filing an appeal, the time for a hearing to be completed, and the time for the Chancellor's Office to respond to the appeal. The Chancellor's Office will notify the Parties and the Title IX Coordinator of any extensions of time granted pertaining to any portion of the appeal process.

Article XII. Retaliation

Retaliation, including intimidation, coercion, or discrimination against any individual for the purpose of interfering with an individual exercising any rights under this Track, for reporting or filing a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment (as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy), or for participating or refusing to participate in any manner in any policy-related investigation or proceeding, including a hearing, is prohibited.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this Article.

Complaints of Retaliation that arise from this Track may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in accordance with the procedures set out in the **CSU Nondiscrimination Policy – Student Respondent Procedures or the CSU Nondiscrimination Policy – Employee and Third-Party Respondent Procedures**.

Individuals should not be deterred from reporting any incidents of Sexual Harassment or participating in an investigation as a Complainant or witness out of a concern that they might be disciplined for related violations of drug, alcohol, or other university policies. The campus' primary concern is the safety of the campus community; therefore, a person who participates in investigations or proceedings involving Sexual Harassment shall not be subject to discipline for related violations of the Student Conduct Code at or near the time of the incident unless the campus determines the conduct places the health and safety of another person at risk or is otherwise egregious. The campus may, however, have an educational discussion with the person or pursue other educational Remedies regarding alcohol or other drugs.

The campus will keep confidential (except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute or FERPA regulations, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of this Track, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder) the identity of:

- a. Any Individual who has made a report or Formal Complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy.
- b. Any Complainant.
- c. Any Individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination.
- d. Any Respondent.
- e. Any Witness.

Article XIII. Recordkeeping

A. Records relating to the Investigation and Hearing Process

The campus shall maintain records of the following for a period of seven years (from the date of a record's creation), or the timeframe in accordance with the campus records/information retention and disposition schedule, whichever is later:

1. Each Sexual Harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility (this includes records created in relation to Formal Complaints that are dismissed).
2. Any audio or audiovisual recording or transcript pertaining to the Formal Complaint process.
3. Any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the Respondent.

4. Any Remedies provided to the Complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the campus's education program or activity.
5. Any appeal and the result therefrom (including appeals pertaining to mandatory and discretionary dismissal of Formal Complaints).
6. Any Informal Resolution and the result therefrom.
7. All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, hearing officers, and any person who facilitates an Informal Resolution process. The campus shall make these training materials publicly available on its website.

B. Records relating to Supportive Measures

The campus must create, and maintain the following for a period of seven years or the timeframe in accordance with the campus records/information retention and disposition schedule, whichever is later:

1. Records of any actions, including any Supportive Measures, taken in response to a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, as defined under Article V.B of the Nondiscrimination Policy;
2. In each instance, the campus must document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the campus's Education Program or Activity; and
3. if the campus does not provide a Complainant with Supportive Measures, the campus must document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

Endnotes

ⁱ Track 1 incorporates the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education's 2020 Federal Regulations and generally tracks language used in the regulations. However, in keeping with the most current best practices, Track 1 has substituted other terms for "victim" where possible.

ⁱⁱ A Formal Complaint may exist even without a signature where something otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint. An e-mail from the Complainant would be sufficient.

ⁱⁱⁱ By signing the Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator does not become a party to the investigation or demonstrate bias.

^{iv} If a Party is not an "eligible student," as defined in 34 CFR 99.3 ("Eligible' student means a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education"), then the University must obtain the voluntary, written consent of a "parent," as defined in 34 CFR 99.3 ("Parent' means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian").

^v Unless the Party informs the Investigator or Title IX Coordinator in writing that they do not wish for this information to be sent to their Support Advisor.

^{vi} The copy of the decision letter issued to the Complainant will be redacted as to findings regarding conduct that does not constitute a "crime of violence," Sexual Misconduct, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking (34 C.F.R. § 99.31 et seq.).