

Marvin Krislov President (212) 346-1098 Fax: (212) 346-1384 mkrislov@pace.edu

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Dear Pace Community,

Pace University remains steadfast in ensuring the safety of all members of our community, and is committed to maintaining our strong policies and procedures on issues related to sexual assault, discrimination, and harassment.

Almost three years ago, students, faculty, and staff were invited to participate in a conversation on our campus climate. Together, these stakeholders collaborated on innovative ways to enhance safety on our campus, which included the development of a campus-wide sexual assault policy and resources for survivors of sexual assault. When Kathy Hochul, the New York State Lieutenant Governor, visited Pace in May 2016 to talk about sexual assault on college campuses, she described our University as a leader on this issue when other colleges around the state were reluctant to talk. When she returned to campus in September 2016 to discuss the passage of Governor Cuomo's Enough is Enough legislation, she identified Pace as being in the forefront in the area of educating our community on this critical issue.

The New York State Office of Campus Safety recently released its first audit report rating universities on their compliance with New York State's "Enough is Enough" legislation, the most aggressive and comprehensive law in the country to fight against sexual assault on college campuses. Among other things, the New York law mandates that University policies include an "affirmative consent" standard. In the State's report, Pace University was cited for the effectiveness of our sexual assault policies and procedures and was ranked among only 38.9% of New York universities, who were deemed fully compliant with the law.

Notwithstanding the Department of Education's withdrawal of the April 4, 2011 Dear Colleague Letter and April 29, 2014 Guidance, Pace University has not changed its "preponderance of the evidence" standard for determining violations of its Sexual Misconduct Policy and it has no intention of doing so. Furthermore, the protections afforded by Title IX against sexual assault and discrimination on the basis of sex on college campuses, remain the law of the land. The US Department of Education has assured universities that it will continue to enforce that law in a reasonable and evenhanded manner, both during and following the public notice and comment period that will inform their enforcement approach. Pace University will participate in the public comment process and we urge you to do the same. Please be assured that Pace University remains fully committed to maintaining a safe campus community with policies in place that are compliant with Federal and New York State law and best practices.

To that end, Pace will continue to provide professional staff to serve as resources for our campus community, including the Office of the Title IX Coordinator, Offices of the Deans for Students, Offices of Sexual Assault Prevention and Education, the Counseling Center, University Health Care, the LGBTQA Center, Multicultural Affairs, Housing and Residential Life, and the Office of Safety and Security. We will also continue to empower our peer educators, students who deliver educational programs on this issue to our campus community.

I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure Pace University maintains a caring community that celebrates diversity and upholds the values of inclusivity and respect.

Sincerely,

Mairie Kusla

Marvin Krislov