

Council of Graduate Students

Michigan State University

Resolution: 21-SS-40

Title: A Resolution in Support of Greater Transparency and Accountability Regarding Violations of MSU's RVSM Policy¹

Introduced by: Executive Board

Introduced on: March 17, 2021

THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACTS:

WHEREAS, *The Lansing State Journal* released an article in January 2021 detailing faculty and staff sexual misconduct at MSU²; and,

WHEREAS, *The State Journal* identified 49 faculty and staff who had been found in violation of RVSM policy from since 2015, of which 11 remain affiliated with MSU; and,

WHEREAS, At least 14 of the faculty or staff members named in the article had two or more individuals come forward to report instances of sexual harassment or assault; and,

RECOGNIZING, Previous reporting has detailed cases in which students were found to have violated the RVSM policy and the associated sanctions³; and,

RECOGNIZING, This series of reporting is connected to a larger, institutional harm done to victims and survivors of sexual and relationship violence, which deserves our continued attention; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, The Council of Graduate Students (COGS) calls on the Office of Institutional Equity to enhance its annual report by including relevant aggregate statistics including, but not limited to: number of staff, faculty, and students under investigation; number of closed cases and their resolution (finding / no finding); and the average sanctions for individuals found responsible for engaging in sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, or relationship violence; and, be it,

RESOLVED, COGS calls for the implementation of a 'Zero-Tolerance' policy in which expulsion, termination, or dismissal for cause proceedings will be initiated

¹ Many thanks and much credit goes to ASMSU, who first passed a Bill around this issue and on which this legislation is largely based

² Berg, K. (2021, January 27). Despite warnings, multiple reports of sexual misconduct, faculty remain employed at MSU. *The Lansing State Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2021/01/28/michigan-state-university-msu-faculty-sexual-harassment-assault/4249555001/>

³ Mencarini, M. (2017, March 30). MSU official reduced punishment in 12 Title IX cases. *Lansing State Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2017/03/30/michigan-state-university-appealed-title-ix-cases-denise-maybank/99447894/>

against any student, faculty, or staff member found responsible for sexual assault, repeated sexual harassment, stalking, or relationship violence; and, be it,

RESOLVED, COGS calls for the Office of Institutional Equity to engage in an audit of Title IX sanctions once every 3 years with findings published in the annual report; and, be it,

RESOLVED, COGS calls for a graduate student to be added to the Presidential task force evaluating the consistency of disciplinary actions of employees; and, be it,

RESOLVED, COGS calls for an audit of sanctions, including instances in which sanctions were changed upon appeal, for students found to be in violation of the RVSM policy from 2015 to 2020; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, This resolution will take effect at the end of the Full Council meeting in which it was adopted.

VOTED ON: 3/17/21

VOTE TOTALS:

23 FOR
0 AGAINST
5 ABSTAIN



Recording Secretary



President