

The Ohio State University Faculty Statement Against Abuse

Voted on and approved by the elected faculty senators on September 19, 2018

The Ohio State University Senate consists of faculty, administrators and students who represent the views of their respective constituencies. Elected faculty senators provide this statement on domestic abuse, sexual violence, harassment and discrimination independent of our administrative and student colleagues who have not yet spoken on these issues. Given the importance of these issues, a public statement from this faculty is necessary. Our statement is both reactive and proactive. We react to popular press specific to Ohio State athletics and academics. We proactively advocate a position that is timeless as it is the essence of the campus culture for which this faculty is responsible.

At Ohio State, we value *"Excellence; Diversity in people and of ideas; Inclusion; Access and affordability; Innovation; Collaboration and multidisciplinary endeavors; also Integrity, transparency, and trust"* (<https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>). As faculty members we know that these values ring hollow without the trust we cultivate and maintain with our students, colleagues and community. In order to build this trust, we envision a university community where all faculty, staff, and students uphold these values; a community where all of our members can learn, work and live with integrity, transparency, and trust.

The foundation of trust is caring and respect and this requires that all members of the university community are safe from domestic abuse, sexual violence, harassment and discrimination. The Faculty Council states unequivocally that any such misconduct contradicts our values as faculty and as an institution. Domestic abuse, sexual violence, harassment and discrimination are antithetical to what we as educators and as a university seek to achieve.

Because silence on these issues speaks volumes, we loudly state we will not tolerate domestic abuse, sexual violence, harassment and discrimination within our university community. As a community, we are responsible to and for each other.

To our students we say: Your safety, self-esteem and personal growth are of primary importance to us. We want you to know you can trust us, your instructors and mentors, to give you the utmost, unbiased, respectful attention and guide you as best we can.

To our colleagues on the faculty and staff we say: We hold each other to the highest academic, scientific and ethical standards.

To Buckeye Nation and our external stakeholders we say: We are a community that holds the wellbeing of our students and colleagues in the highest regard. We will not stand by and let any member of our community be mistreated or abused.

To ourselves we ask: Are we continually engaging each other to ensure we hold ourselves accountable to the values we profess? Do our fellow senate members, including representatives of faculty, students, administrators and staff, support the content and communication of all relevant policies and principles? Can we engage society in a continuous conversation about diversity, inclusion, rejecting violence and rejecting abuse of power? Can we nurture every student? Can we strengthen a community culture of safety, dignity and respect for all? We answer YES to all, as ethical behavior, community integrity and academic excellence are interwoven in the fabric of The Ohio State University.