

I. STUDY SESSION

3:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Chair Jessica Norouzi called the meeting to order at 3:32 P.M. and noted a quorum.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Title IX Regulation Update

Vice President Jessica Gilmore English briefed the group on the new Title IX Rules. The action in front of the Board is to approve an emergency rule that adopts the new Title IX Rules. The Obama Administration issued Title IX Rules. The Trump Administration issued new rules, which revised the policies. The Biden Administration revised those rules. The memo presented gives highlights of changes. One significant change expands the definitions of “sex discrimination” and “sexual harassment” as well as expanding jurisdiction to include incidents that happen outside of the United States of America. The resolution process is quickened, and support measures for complainants are also expanded. Most colleges have adopted the Student Code Model Policy, which provides clarity around the student conduct process. Student Services is requesting an update to the Student Conduct Code along with the new Title IX updates.

This is not a walk back to the Obama Administration, but rather an expansion of what was laid out in the Trump Administration changes that is the next iteration of the Obama Administration’s rules. The college is not required to provide an attorney for the respondent, but could be required to provide an advisor for both parties. This aligns with requirements for other student conduct regulations where the Assistant Attorney General (AAG) may advise the Conduct Committee and only represents the college at the hearing if one of the students has an attorney. Complainants will continue to have protections regardless of the presidential administration. The new rules rescind the requirement for the complainant to be present at hearings. There is a requirement to use the current process for incidents prior to August 1, 2024 for archiving new decisions, and rules for adjudication are determined by the date of the incident. There is already a lactation room on campus, and there are some gender-neutral bathrooms around campus; at this time, there are no Title IX requirements for a certain proportion of gender neutral bathrooms. There is no current ratio of gender-neutral bathrooms, but there are guidelines on best practices from the Student Services Council.

There are three policies that will be impacted by these changes, which includes the creation of the Pregnancy Policy. These policies are part of shared governance. The

process to change the Student Conduct Code has been to issue an emergency rule that will take effect for 120 days to give the campus time to provide feedback. The public hearing date will occur in October-November. After feedback is gathered, the permanent rule will go before the Board in the November meeting.

After considering the recommendations before to the Board, I, Trustee Debra Entenman move to adopt the presented emergency rules for Title IX, which impacts the College's current Student Conduct Code and Hearing Procedures Washington Administrative Codes in order to be in compliance with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights' Final Rules. Trustee Frieda Takamura seconded, and the motion carried.

II. Meetings

1. Study Session – September 18, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.
2. Regular Board Meeting – September 18, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.
 - A. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2024. Once information regarding the September retreat is available, notification will be sent.

3. Adjournment

There being no further Business, Trustee Tim Cooper moved to adjourn the Board of Trustees regular meeting at 4:15 P.M. Trustee Bob Zappone seconded, and the motion carried.

JESSICA NOROUZI, Board Chair
Board of Trustees



YOSHIKO HARDEN, President
Renton Technical College


