

Dear Faculty Senate,

It has come to the attention of the Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet (UJC) that an updated version of Georgia Tech's Sexual Misconduct Policy has recently been reviewed and approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. We are heartily in favor of constant revisions and updates to the Sexual Misconduct Policy to ensure that all members of the Georgia Tech Community are protected and supported, and we believe Georgia Tech as an institute has the ability and the responsibility to set the standard nationally for these policies. As a board we would like to endorse and request that 1) the UJC no longer presides over cases covered in the Sexual Misconduct Policy; and 2) first recommended sanctions for violations of the Sexual Misconduct Policy be implemented. Our rationale for both of these stances will be briefly outlined in this letter, and we encourage you to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

First, the UJC is opposed to hearing any cases involving sexual misconduct of our peers. Although we have some training, we do not feel we have training to the extent recommended by the Office of Civil Rights outlined in the Dear Colleague Letter. Therefore, we find it would be irresponsible to preside over cases involving victims/survivors of sexual assault. Additionally, we recognize that organizations and experts working to support victims/survivors strongly recommend against allowing student boards to hear cases involving sexual misconduct and that a vast majority of our peer institutions have already removed that option from their adjudication process for sexual misconduct policies. We don't think it fair or appropriate for a victim to have to relive the experience in front of their peers, and want to be as considerate and respectful of victims in their times of trauma. For these reasons, we request that you remove the option for the UJC to preside over sexual misconduct cases.

Second, the UJC would like to support first recommended sanctions for violators of the Sexual Misconduct Policy. We believe this is an important step for Georgia Tech to take in order to better protect victims/survivors of sexual assault. Additionally, the Campus SaVE Act requires that universities provide "possible sanctions on protective measures the institution may impose following a final determination of an institutional disciplinary procedure", which we believe includes first recommended sanctions. We also feel that including first recommended sanctions in the Sexual Misconduct Policy will strongly convey the message that Georgia Tech takes these issues seriously. Furthermore, having first recommended sanctions shows that Georgia Tech is willing to set the standard for forward-thinking sexual misconduct policies. We believe that for too long victims/survivors of sexual assault have not been properly protected and supported on all universities, including Georgia Tech. In order to begin rectifying this, we believe that implementing first recommended sanctions is a necessary step Tech must take to ensure that victims/survivors who bring forth cases are guaranteed minimum protections if the accused is

April 9, 2014

found responsible. Additionally, first recommended sanctions will help protect others on Georgia Tech's campus from students who create a dangerous environment for their peers.

Although the UJC does not represent the entire student body, we are a group of highly involved students who are well versed in the current Georgia Tech adjudication process and care deeply for the future of Georgia Tech. Therefore, it is our hope that the administration reads, understands, and seriously considers our requests in this letter. If you have any questions and concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Jacob Blaeser, Chief Justice – (770)-757-9371 – jblaeser6@gatech.edu

Sincerely Yours in White and Gold,

The Undergraduate Judiciary Cabinet