

# UT Southwestern Medical Center

## Cultivating a Safe and Secure Learning Environment

March 24, 2017

This afternoon, the Chancellor of The University of Texas System, William H. McRaven, announced the results of a Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments ([CLASE](#)) survey.

For the survey, students anonymously and voluntarily answered questions using a web-based platform in three broad areas: health and well-being; general perceptions about the institution's response to addressing four areas protected under Title IX legislation (sexual harassment, stalking, dating/domestic abuse and violence, and unwanted sexual contact); and if they had personal experience with any of these since their enrollment at a UT System institution. Among the health institutions, the response rate was 13%.

The investigators retained by the UT System aggregated responses for the five health institutions that participated, including UT Southwestern Medical Center, since overall responses for individual institutions were insufficient to draw meaningful conclusions.

The CLASE survey is an opportunity for UT System institutions to better understand the experiences of our students, as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure our learning environments are safe and free of sex discrimination. UT Southwestern has had several long-standing measures in place to prevent and address sexual misconduct, including:

- Policies and procedures prohibiting sexual misconduct and providing complaint resolution options.
- An institutional Title IX Coordinator as well as three Deputy Title IX Coordinators, one in each school. (Title IX Coordinators have received extensive training on sexual misconduct, harassment, and violence, and they investigate all complaints of sexual misconduct involving students and residents.)
- Mandatory campuswide training on eliminating sexual violence.
- A variety of resources for students impacted by sexual misconduct so they can obtain information and support.

However, the CLASE report demonstrates that UT System institutions can and must do even more. After reviewing the results of the CLASE survey, UT Southwestern has put in place additional robust initiatives, including:

- Overhauling the UT Southwestern Title IX website to make it even easier for students to access information, resources, and support. [Title IX at UT Southwestern](#) also now features an electronic reporting button for individuals to submit concerns or complaints directly to the Title IX Coordinator online.
- Developing mandatory, targeted training for anyone who supervises students and residents, including all deans, department chairs, clerkship directors, division directors, and program directors.
- Expanding our internal student survey, currently conducted annually at the Medical School, to specifically identify discrete areas where prohibited conduct may be occurring and better protect at-risk populations, such as LGBTQ students who reported the highest percentage of mistreatment.
- Making available “Eliminating Sexual Violence” training to all students and employees on an ongoing basis via the Title IX website.

We encourage you to become informed and involved in supporting our commitment to providing the safest learning environment possible. To learn more about the policies, resources, and programs in place, or if you or someone you know needs to access resources, we strongly encourage you to go to [Title IX at UT Southwestern](#).

J. Gregory Fitz, M.D., FAASLD  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
UT Southwestern Medical School

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.  
President  
UT Southwestern Medical Center