

Faculty Senate Resolution on Sexual Harassmentⁱ

Whereas, VSU’s Equal Opportunity Statement reads that “Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the age, sex, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation of the individual,” **and**

Whereas, a 2007 study funded by the National Institute for Justice found that 1 in 5 women are targets of sexual assault while they are attending a college or university, **and**

Whereas, the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network reports that women at colleges and universities are four times more likely than others to face sexual assault, **and**

Whereas, a 2000 report funded by the National Institute of Justice found that the vast majority (90%) of sexual assaults on campuses are committed by an acquaintance of the victim, **and**

Whereas, less than 5 percent of rapes at colleges and universities are reported to campus authorities or law enforcement, and two-thirds of the rapists are/were repeat offenders, **and**

Whereas, alcohol is the most widely used date-rape drug as the majority of assaults occur when the victim is incapacitated due to alcohol, **and**

Whereas, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments prohibits sexual harassment of college students and defines sexual assault as an extreme form of sexual harassment which “denies or limits, on the basis of sex, a student’s ability to participate in or receive benefits, services, or opportunities at the institution;” **now, therefore be it**

Resolved, that the Faculty Senate strongly opposes any form of sexual harassment at VSU and is in full support of existing and further proposed educational and prevention programming, which will raise awareness of the realities of sexual harassment, while making resources available to the survivors of sexual assaults.

ⁱ Sources:

Christopher P. Krebs et al. *The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study*. Final report prepared for the National Institute of Justice (Washington: National Institute of Justice, 2007)

National Sexual Violence Resource Center: <http://www.nsvrc.org/>

Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN): <https://rainn.org/statistics>