

**R F2019.05**

**A Resolution Calling Upon the University to Alter the University of Michigan Policy & Procedures on Student Sexual & Gender-Based Misconduct & Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

20 November 2019

Sponsors: Mary McKillop, Brian Wang, Nicolas Pereira, Gurliv Chahal, Jordan Schuler, Kevan Casson, Kaitlyn Colyer, Nick Bonde, Sai Pamidighantam, Natalie Simmons, Josephine Fonger, and Alli Goodsell

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”; and,

**Whereas**, on January 9th, 2019 the University of Michigan (hereafter the University) released new changes to the University of Michigan Policy & Procedures on Student Sexual & Gender-Based Misconduct & Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence; and,

**Whereas**, included within these changes a process for cross-examination in which parties involved in a sexual misconduct investigation will ask questions directly of one another is established through the traditional investigative resolution method, and;

**Whereas**, the only alternatives to this direct in-person cross-examination are holding the hearing via video-assisted technology or using the text chat function of BlueJeans, and;

**Whereas**, the process of direct cross-examination between the parties involved in the investigation can be traumatizing for the complainant in any format, and;

**Whereas**, The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and the American Civil Liberties Union Women’s Rights Project have urged the University to withdraw this policy on the basis that it violates Title IX by creating an environment where many students will not feel comfortable coming forward with complaints, risks creating a traumatic experience for those who do choose to come forward, and creates a hostile environment on campus; and,

**Whereas**, most other Universities, including peer institutions such as the University of California, Los Angeles do not require the cross-examination of those involved in misconduct investigations to be carried out by the students themselves.

**Be it therefore resolved**, LSA SG calls upon the University to alter the University of Michigan Policy & Procedures on Student Sexual & Gender-Based Misconduct & Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence to mandate that the cross-examination process be carried out by professional representatives who are trained in the process of handling these sensitive scenarios.

**Be it finally resolved**, LSA SG shall send a copy of this resolution, along with an Executive Board Statement to University of Michigan Interim Title IX Coordinator Jeffrey Frumkin, University of Michigan Deputy Title IX Coordinator Elizabeth Seney, University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel, University of Michigan Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center Director Kaaren Williamsen, University of Michigan Office of Student Conflict Resolution Director Erik Wessel.