

September 18, 2014

Dear Faculty, Students and Staff:

A front-page article in *The Review* on September 16 and an accompanying editorial claimed that the University allegedly failed to communicate appropriately with a student after she filed a sexual harassment complaint. While we cannot comment specifically on that case because of privacy interests, we can say that the article contained errors of fact and misrepresentations.

It is important for the University community to know that this matter was handled promptly and appropriately, with sensitivity and clear communication with the student and her advocate, and in accordance with all University policies and the requirements of federal law.

All UD students, faculty and staff should know safety is our highest priority. There are many individuals on this campus working diligently to help guard against sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and sexual assault. Procedures are in place to ensure that any and all complaints are handled thoroughly and appropriately.

In order to protect the privacy of both the complainant and the respondent, our policies provide that confidentiality must be maintained to the fullest extent possible throughout the process. The University takes this confidentiality requirement seriously because many victims would not come forward without it.

For our processes to work the way they are intended, we must have an informed community. We must create an environment where everyone feels safe, but in the event that something happens, our community must know about available resources.

To this end, my office will be working with UD's Title IX coordinator, Dr. Susan Groff, to arrange open information sessions about the University's initiatives, policies and procedures regarding sexual harassment and sexual assault.

This is an issue of utmost importance to me both personally and professionally. We do not and will not tolerate sexual misconduct in our community.

With all good wishes,



Domenico Grasso
Provost