



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

50 BEALE ST., SUITE 7200  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

REGION IX  
CALIFORNIA

APR 27 2016

Mr. Kursat Pekgoz  
3584 S. Figueroa, #210a  
Los Angeles, California 90007

(In reply, please refer to case no. 09-16-2128.)

Dear Mr. Pekgoz:

On March 24, 2016, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), notified the University of Southern California (University) of OCR's investigation of your complaint. Your complaint alleged that the University discriminated against you (the Complainant) based on sex when it failed to provide you with a prompt and equitable response to a sexual harassment/assault complaint filed against you and to a sexual harassment/assault complaint you filed against a fellow student; and you were denied counseling for sexual trauma at the Center for Women and Men.

In the course of the OCR investigation, we have become aware that your complaint is asserting allegations on both individual and systemic bases. Specifically, your complaint alleges that:

- (1) the University failed to provide you a prompt and equitable response to a sexual harassment complaint filed against you by a female student, and to the sex harassment/assault complaints you filed against the same female student;
- (2) the University fails to provide a prompt and equitable response to sexual harassment/assault complaints; and
- (3) the University denies counseling to men for sexual trauma at the Center for Women and Men based on their sex.

With respect to the second allegation, OCR is already investigating this claim in OCR docket number 09-13-2294, and this allegation will be also be considered in that investigation. With respect to the third allegation, we find that it is a systemic allegation appropriate for investigation under the laws enforced by OCR. We are simultaneously notifying the University of the additional allegations.

OCR routinely advises recipients of Federal funds and public education entities that Federal regulations prohibit intimidation, harassment or retaliation against those filing complaints with OCR and those participating in the complaint resolution process.

Complainants and participants who feel that such actions have occurred may file a separate complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related records upon request. In the event that OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

Your cooperation is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Civil Rights Attorney Laura Welp at [laura.welp@ed.gov](mailto:laura.welp@ed.gov) or 415-486-5577.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Beth McLeod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mary Beth McLeod  
Team Leader