Title: A RESOLUTION TO REQUIRE THAT TITLE IX TRAINING BE A PART OF ALL FIRST-YEAR ORIENTATION CLASSES

Short Title: Title IX Training in First-Year Orientation Classes
Primary Sponsor: Sarah Ihlenfeld, Senator
Secondary Sponsor(s): Stephanie Buggs, College Senator
Noor Dashan, Senator
Josh Harman, Senator
Amelia Jones, Senator
Andrew Matus, College Senator
Marley Nash, College Senator
Camryn Pressley, Senator

First Reading Date 11-19-2019
Second Reading Date 12-4-2019

Whereas, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion states that, “It is the duty of the Office of Equity Assurance to protect students and employees of the University from and remedy all forms of discrimination, harassment, sexual and domestic misconduct, and retaliation in accordance with WVU’s non-discrimination statement”;

Whereas, the mission statement of this body declares that we will “help ensure that the personal freedoms and general welfare of the students within our University are protected”;

Whereas, an article published in the Daily Athenaeum on October 29, 2019 reported that WVU has among the highest reported domestic violence offences of other Big XII schools, with:

i. 26 reported offenses in 2016, 32 reported offenses in 2017, and 25 reported offenses in 2018, and more unreported;
ii. Iowa State University had only 4 reported offenses in 2016, 2017, and 2018 each;
iii. The University of Texas had 14 reported offenses in 2016, 6 reported offenses in 2017, and 2 reported offenses in 2018;

Whereas, the article further quoted Walter DeKeseredy, the director of WVU’s Violence Research Center, who said that the data “are just crimes that have come to the attention of the police” and is extremely under representative of the actual statistics on campus;

Whereas, the WVU Campus Climate Survey, conducted in the Spring of 2016 found that nearly 20% of students reported experiencing some form of other intimate partner violence, and only 35% reported knowing where to go to get help if they or a friend experiences sexual misconduct;

Whereas, in the past fiscal year, from July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019:

i. 120 in-person Title IX student trainings were conducted, training 3,279 students;
ii. 5,101 students received Title IX training online through Everfi;
iii. 63 in-person Title IX faculty and staff trainings were conducted, training 2,186 faculty and staff members;
iv. 4,242 faculty and staff members were trained online through Everfi;
v. 3 employees regularly gave in-person Title IX trainings;

Whereas, an estimate from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion suggested that 1-2 more employees would be required in order to give an in-person Title IX training to all of the First-Year Orientation classes,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University that:

Section 1: In-person Title IX trainings should be a requirement of all First-Year Orientation classes at West Virginia University in order to make our campus safer, healthier, and happier. In order to facilitate this, 2 more people should be employed by the Title IX Office to give in-person Title IX trainings. These trainings teach critical lessons in consent and bystander training, and they teach students about their resources and rights as a student at WVU. Following this recommendation would be a strong step for the University to take in combatting sexual assault and harassment on campus.

Section 2: Upon its passage and approval, this legislation shall be forwarded to:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
Sabrina Cave, Executive Director, Student Enrichment
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
Daily Athenaeum
Kate Dye, Student Body President