RESOLUTION

Senate Bill No.: R.S.15

Date Submitted: 12/4/18

Date Introduced: 12/4/18

Date Action Taken: 12/4/18

Introduced By: Senator Krishna, Student Action Committee

Senator Parker, Sexual Assault Ad Hoc Committee, Co-Chair

Senator Short, Sexual Assault Ad Hoc Committee, Co-Chair

Sponsored: 

Sponsored: 

Senator Krishna

Senator Parker

Sponsored:

Sponsored:

Senator Short

Signed: 

Signed: 

President Foley

Certified: 

Speaker of the Senate Scannell

Resolution Supporting the Indication of Sexual Assault Misconduct on College Transcripts

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont (UVM) Student Government Association (SGA) has a duty and obligation to stand up for all survivors of sexual assault,

WHEREAS, SGA’s Sexual Assault Ad Hoc committee is committed to reforming the UVM policies to better serve and protect survivors of sexual assault at the University of Vermont and the greater Burlington area,

WHEREAS, the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) states that 1 in 6 womyn will be the victim of completed or attempted sexual assault in her lifetime¹,

¹ https://www.rainn.org/statistics/scope-problem
WHEREAS, RAINN states that 1 in 33 men will be the victim of completed or attempted sexual assault in his lifetime²,

WHEREAS, RAINN states that 23.1% of all female undergraduate students and 5.4% of all male undergraduate students experience sexual assault³,

WHEREAS, people of color and members of the LGBTQIA+ community are at a much higher risk for sexual assault⁴,

WHEREAS, 51% of all alleged assaulters have at least one previous conviction, 19% have 2-4 previous convictions, 12% have 5-9 previous convictions, and 8% have 10 or more previous convictions⁵,

WHEREAS, only 1 in 4 assaults are reported and 99.5% of perpetrators will not face prosecution⁶,

WHEREAS, in a case where a student is found guilty of sexual assault, 30% will be expelled, 47% will be suspended, 17% will receive educational sanctions⁷, and 6% will receive no punishment,

WHEREAS, most college transcripts only use a small symbol to indicate that a student has been expelled or dismissed from their university,

WHEREAS, the same symbol is used for a range of reasons for dismissal including sexual assault,

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont does not use any symbol to indicate a student has been dismissed regardless of reason,

WHEREAS, in recognition of this problem, a petition, under the name of 'Explain the Asterisk', started by a UVM student, has garnered more than 49,000 signatures nationwide⁸,

WHEREAS, said petition calls for the requirement of colleges to describe the nature of a student's dismissal on their transcript when it involves sexual assault,

WHEREAS, the states of Virginia and New York have similar laws already in place that require the indication of sexual assault allegations on college transcripts⁹,

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³ https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence
⁴ https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence
⁵ https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence
⁶ https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system
⁷ https://www.mccaskill.senate.gov/pdf/McCaskillSurveyCampusSexualAssaults.pdf
⁹ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PjjfzILzzdgX9enYR7jPLfTJ_xxBv4oMref93XaDv8/edit
WHEREAS, legislation inspired by this petition is expected to be introduced into the Vermont state legislatures,

WHEREAS, numerous state representatives and state senators have expressed interest in hearing more from Vermont youth and college students,

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont SGA represents over 10,000 Vermont adolescents,

LET IT BE KNOWN, that the ‘Explain the Asterisk’ movement aims to increase awareness about the lack of information on college transcripts when a student has been dismissed for sexual assault,

LET IT BE KNOWN, the University of Vermont Student Government Association will work with the Office of Admissions, Title IX coordinators, and the Board of Trustees to encourage that the indication of sexual assault misconduct allegations be included on college transcripts of those dismissed or suspended,

BE IT RESOLVED, the University of Vermont Student Government Association support the Explain the Asterisk movement, and supports the adaptation of this policy to the University of Vermont.