


MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

October 29, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Steering Committee

FROM: Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs 

SUBJECT: Consideration of Adding Lauren's Promise to Syllabi

In a recent meeting with the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU), student leaders requested adding Lauren's Promise to course syllabi. Lauren's Promise provides resources available on campus related to relationship violence and sexual misconduct (RVSM). The ASMSU General Assembly passed the following bills related to this matter:

Bill 57-61: Advocate for Instructors to add "Lauren's Promise" to their Course Syllabi

Bill 57-65: Advocate for Responsible Employee Signage for all MSU Responsible Employees

Bill 57-92: Establish a Survivor-Centered Mandatory Reporting Training for MSU Student Employees



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I recommend the University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) consider the matter of creating and adopting standardized language on RVSM on course syllabi.

Attachments

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

BILL NO. 57-61

INTRODUCED BY: Kovach (JMC) SECONDED BY: Womxn’s Council (Sewick)

A BILL TO: Advocate for Instructors to add “Lauren’s Promise” to their Course Syllabi

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, In October 2018, Lauren McCluskey, an honors student and athlete at the University of Utah, was tragically murdered at the hands of relationship violence, which she had reported to campus and city authorities many times; her mother, a professor at Washington State, created this statement to add to syllabi for professors to show support and resources for students in similar situations;¹ and,

WHEREAS, Lauren’s Promise is a statement added to syllabi that says, “I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you,” followed by a list of emergency and non-emergency resources students can utilize if they are in a threatening situation;² and,

WHEREAS, The National Domestic Violence Hotline reports "nearly 3 in 10 women (29%) and 1 in 10 men (10%) in the US have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by a partner;"³ and,

WHEREAS, Most victims of domestic abuse (69% of female victims and 53% of male victims) experience the first sign of violence before the age of 25 and women age 18-24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence;⁴ and,

WHEREAS, 43% of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors including physical, sexual, digital, verbal, or other controlling abuse;⁵ and,

¹ <https://www.laurenmccluskey.org/>

² <https://www.ksl.com/article/46767219/i-will-listen-and-believe-you-laurens-promise-pledge-reaching-students-throughout-the-us-and-beyond>

³ <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/>

⁴ <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/>

⁵ <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/>

WHEREAS, Nearly 58% of college students do not know what to do to help someone who is a victim of dating abuse, and 38% of college students do not know how to get help for themselves if they were a victim of dating abuse;⁶ and,

WHEREAS, Over 30 institutions have adopted Lauren’s Promise, including Pennsylvania State University and Ohio State University;⁷ and,

WHEREAS, Michigan State University instructors are mandatory reporters of relationship violence and MSU created the Green Folder that gives instructors resources to turn to if violence has been reported to them;^{8 9} therefore be it,

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University shall advocate that instructors include the following statement, inspired by Lauren’s Promise, on their course syllabi:

“Lauren’s Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you:

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on Oct. 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah Campus. *We must all take actions to ensure this never happens again.*

Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at Michigan State University.

If you are experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you can take the following actions:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911.
- Report it to me and I will connect you to resources.
 - I am a MANDATORY REPORTER, I have to report relationship violence, stalking, or sexual misconduct that involves a member of the University community (faculty, staff, or student) or occurring at a University event or on University property.
- Connect with one of MSU’s Resources for Survivors:
<https://poe.msu.edu/resources/survivor-resources.html>

Please know you are never alone, I believe you, and I am always here to help.”

⁶ <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/domestic-violence-statistics/>

⁷ <https://www.ksl.com/article/46767219/i-will-listen-and-believe-you-laurens-promise-pledge-reaching-students-throughout-the-us-and-beyond>

⁸ <https://caps.msu.edu/assets/images/pdfs/BTAT%20Green%20Folder-10-16-2019.pdf>

⁹ <https://oie.msu.edu/resources/mandatory-reporters.html>

INTRODUCED ON _____

REFERRED TO _____ **COMMITTEE ON** _____

SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN _____ **DATE** _____

COMMITTEE ACTION _____

PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE

FINAL ACTION TAKEN _____

PASSED FAILED VOTE DATE

PRESIDENT : Abii-Tah Chungong Bih

VPIA: Nora Teagan

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION**



BILL NO. 57-65

INTRODUCED BY: Woman’s Council

SECONDED BY: Modi

A RESOLUTION TO: Advocate for Responsible Employee Signage for all MSU Responsible Employees

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, The majority of employees on MSU’s campus are Responsible Employees (formerly known as Mandatory Reporters), and therefore are legally obligated to report all “alleged acts of relationship violence, stalking, or sexual misconduct that involves a member of the University community (faculty, staff, or student) or occurring at a University event or on University property”;¹ and,

WHEREAS, Most workers on campus are Responsible Employees; yet, very few students are aware of the status of Responsible Employees they frequently interact with and the obligations said employees have; and,

WHEREAS, There is currently no physical representations or visual reminders of the status of frequently contacted employees such as dining hall workers, professors, and front desk staff; and,

WHEREAS, Students may unknowingly disclose personal relationship violence and/or sexual misconduct-related information that Responsible Employees are legally obligated to report to OIE and/or MSU Police; therefore be it that,

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University shall advocate for the use of visual reminders for all Responsible Employees to use; including, but not limited to: front desk signage, email signature logos, office door signage, and stickers for name tags; and,

RESOLVED, Advocate for all Responsible Employees and their supervisors to have access to these visible reminders for their mandated use during the workday.

¹ <https://oie.msu.edu/resources/mandatory-reporters.html>

INTRODUCED ON 02.09.2021

REFERRED TO Academic COMMITTEE ON 02.09.2021

SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN _____ DATE _____

COMMITTEE ACTION	<u>X</u>		Voice Majority	<u>02.09.2021</u>
	PASSED	FAILED	VOTE	DATE

FINAL ACTION TAKEN	<u>X</u>		Voice Majority	<u>02.18.2021</u>
	PASSED	FAILED	VOTE	DATE

Abii-Tah Chungong Bih

PRESIDENT : Abii-Tah Chungong Bih

VPIA: Nora Teagan

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION**



BILL NO. 57-92

INTRODUCED BY: Modi

SECONDED BY: Kovach

A BILL TO: Establish a Survivor-Centered Mandatory Reporting Training for MSU Student Employees

THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

WHEREAS, The majority of student employees on MSU’s campus are Responsible Employees (formerly known as Mandatory Reporters), and therefore are legally obligated to report all “alleged acts of relationship violence, stalking, or sexual misconduct that involves a member of the University community (faculty, staff, or student) or occurring at a University event or on University property;”¹ and,

WHEREAS, There is no standardized training for student employees in order to learn about their legal duties as Responsible Employees; and,

WHEREAS, Mandatory reporting involves hearing and handling sensitive and potentially triggering information about sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or related topics that could have a negative effect on student mental health if not given proper coping skills; and,

WHEREAS, Developing a standardized mandatory training program must include representatives and input from a diverse group of trained faculty and student groups to ensure it treats the diverse MSU community equitably; therefore be it further,

RESOLVED, The Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) shall form a working group, the Committee for Mandatory Reporting Training (CMRT), by the beginning of the fall 2021 academic semester, and let it be further,

RESOLVED, The CMRT shall be organized by the Director of Health, Safety, and Wellness and be comprised of at least 1 representative from:

¹ <https://oie.msu.edu/resources/mandatory-reporters.html>

- The Office of Civil Rights (OCR),
- The Prevention, Outreach, and Education Department (POE),
- Legal Services from ASMSU,
- The Health, Safety, and Wellness Department from ASMSU,
- The Council of Racial and Ethnic Students (CORES) & the Council of Progressive Students (COPS),
- The Council of Graduate Students (COGS).

It shall be known that POE will be the group leading the creation of the content of the training; and let it be further,

RESOLVED, The CMRT shall be focused on creating a required Mandatory Reporting training for all student employees. This training should be survivor-oriented, student-centered, delivered online, revisitable online and digitally accessible to people of all abilities; and let it be further,

RESOLVED, This Mandatory Reporting training shall be revisited and considered for updates every year, organized by the Director of Health, Safety, and Wellness, by at least one representative from OCR, the Department of Health, Safety, and Wellness, POE, Legal Services from ASMSU and CORES & COPS to reflect changes in Title IX policy or feedback from the training.

INTRODUCED ON March 9th 2021

REFERRED TO Policy **COMMITTEE ON** March 9th 2021

SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN _____ **DATE** _____

COMMITTEE ACTION	<u> X </u>	Voice Majority	<u> March 9th 2021 </u>
	PASSED	FAILED	DATE
		VOTE	

FINAL ACTION TAKEN	<u> X </u>	Voice Majority	<u> March 18th 2021 </u>
	PASSED	FAILED	DATE
		VOTE	

PRESIDENT : Abii-Tah Chungong Bih **VPIA: Nora Teagan**