

Re: an update for the community
To: UT Law Administration
From: Concerned Members of the UT Law Community
Date: February 20, 2023

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We are members of the UT Law community frustrated by the response "an update for the community." We ask that you reconsider the message that was shared and issue a more appropriate response.

The fact that students shared their experiences with this list, the very fact that the administration is aware of such a report, is evidence.

Dean Chesney's statement that no one has come forward with "evidence that the rumored actions actually occurred" is not only untrue, but it adds to the perception that women at UT Law are not taken seriously and will not be believed or supported when they do come forward. The Dean's response appears to give cover to improper conduct and only serves to highlight what is glaringly missing from the administration's response--care for the women of UT Law.

Whether or not the perpetrators of this list were determined and held accountable is only part of the problem. It took months for anyone in the administration to respond to "rumors" that have been circulating for almost five months now. It is a problem that the only supportive response has been a grassroots, student-run [website](#) with the sole goal of lifting up the women of UT Law--which the administration will not even acknowledge.

This incident and the manner in which it was handled only add to the oppressive, racist, misogynistic environment that the women of UT Law walk through every day. To many of us, it feels like you only responded because the outside world took notice. Is Above the Law where we need to take our concerns to have them addressed?

The list is a blip. It's part of a bigger story that includes the meetings that happen before class registration to see which professors will make us feel safe, or not. The preferential treatment male classmates often receive. The power, salary, and prestige imbalance between our male and female faculty members. All the white, male framed faces that cover our walls. The dehumanizing class discussions that some professors allow to persist under the guise of "diversity of thought." The sexual assault and harassment we face. Add the list to the list of things that we are not convinced this administration has any real awareness of or is equipped to respond to.

You can, and must, do better. Talk with the women of UT Law more and your general counsel and communications teams less. Forget about what Above the Law is going to say and think

about what would actually make a difference for the women in this community. What does the team of female associate deans have to say?

In addition to an acknowledgement of the harm that Dean Chesney's email caused, we ask that more time be allocated at orientation to discuss issues related to gender-based harassment and violence. This conversation should be tailored to address the kinds of harm that are specific to law schools and the legal profession at large. Furthermore, Dr. Maria Timm, PhD Psychologist, CARE Coordinator at UT Law, should be given a larger platform to share how she can be a resource to law students facing harassment, discrimination and violence. Student organizations, like the Gender Violence Law Caucus, would be an excellent resource to consult on the content of such a session.

Dean Chesney requests that we treat one another with mutual respect, fairness, and equality. That is what we are asking for.

Thank you,
Concerned Members of the UT Law Community