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Presidential Letter on Otterbein's Sexual Misconduct Policy

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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September 6, 2018

Dear Otterbein Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Over the past nine months, our nation has been exposed to high profile cases of sexual misconduct that have plagued governments, workplaces, schools, and communities for years. Many stories have been told, and, more importantly, proven to be true, that have shaken the pillars of our society. There are likely countless other situations that have not been brought forward due to fear of retaliation.

It is our responsibility to create a culture at Otterbein where we condemn sexual misconduct, shine the light on unacceptable behavior, and build a community where individuals do not fear coming forward.

To demonstrate that Otterbein will not tolerate sexual misconduct, retaliation, or ignore complaints, I am writing to inform you of the following steps that will be taken this academic year:

1. We will provide Otterbein's Sexual Misconduct Policy to all students, faculty, staff, and vendors (see attached);
2. We will provide multiple reporting options, including one that is anonymous. Reporting options are provided on page seven of the attached policy;
3. We will initiate new and ongoing sexual misconduct training required of all students, faculty, and staff; and,
4. We will initiate new sexual misconduct training for supervisors.

Please join me as we continue working toward building a community that is free from sexual misconduct, harassment, discrimination, and retaliation as well as one that supports our values of diversity, equality, and inclusiveness.

Sincerely,

John Comerford, Ph.D.
President