Working with Students of Concern

Behavioral: You may encounter a variety of behavioral issues in dealing with college students. Faculty has the responsibility to manage classroom behavior and it is imperative that make clear your behavioral expectations at the beginning of the semester. Include your behavioral expectations along and the IPFW behavioral standards in your written syllabus. Reference the IPFW Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct as well. Taking this proactive step may reduce the need to deal with behavioral issues later in the term.

Many student issues are effectively resolved directly with the faculty member who is experiencing the behavior. Some examples of these issues include, but are not limited to:

- Disrespectful Language
- Interrupting while others are speaking
- Sleeping during class
- Tardiness for classes or appointments
- Texting during class
- Answering cell phones during class

If a behavioral issue arises in your class you must address the issue at the time of the incident. An issue ignored is an issue that may worsen or resurface. Be courteous yet firm when addressing the issue. Ask the student to compose their self and to follow up with you after class to work to resolve the issue. Address the entire class to have them refocus on discussion pertinent to class issues. If the student refuses to comply with your request you may direct the student to leave the class immediately. If the student refuses to comply use your judgment to suspend the class. After the incident is over, contact the Dean of Students Office at 481-6601 or email dos@ipfw.edu to report the incident.

In cases where a student’s behavior is such that you are not, or are no longer, comfortable dealing with it and the student is expressing hostile, intimidating, harassing behavior or may be perceived as an imminent threat to self or others either through personal observation or through email contact from the student, immediately call University Police at 911. After the incident is over, contact the Dean of Students Office.

CARE: Behavioral issues are not all related to disruptive classroom activity. You are strongly urged to report ANY student who concerns you to the CARE Team. The mission of the CARE Team is to promote student success by addressing behaviors which may potentially interfere with a student’s academic progress. The team meets to discuss students referred to them by faculty, staff, police and other members of the IPFW community. Notifying CARE is as simple as contacting the Office of the Dean of Students at 481-6601 or emailing dos@ipfw.edu and reporting your concerns. Some examples of student behavior which should be reported include, but are not limited to:

- Changes in behavior
- Concerning eating habits
- Health concerns
- Changes in grades
- Flat affect
- Outbursts
- Changes in sleep
- Hardship
- Tearfulness

Disability: If you are concerned about a student with a disability or you have questions regarding accommodations contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) and a staff member will assist you. You may contact them at 481-6657 or email wagenfee@ipfw.edu or schradej@ipfw.edu. Eric Wagenfeld, Director of SSD is also the IPFW liaison for the student counseling services on campus.

Counseling: IPFW/Parkview Student Assistance Program (SAP) provides confidential counseling for all students at IPFW, free of charge. They are also offer consultative services to faculty and staff for support in addressing a variety of student needs. They can be contacted at 266-8060 or 800-721-8809.