

Select Committee on Women and Children  
March 10, 2021

Motion to adopt the following statement in response to the Husch Blackwell Title IX review of the mishandling of reports of sexual and related abuse and the actions taken by Louisiana State University in response to these reports:

The Louisiana Legislature's Select Committee on Women and Children hereby expresses deep and profound disappointment and dismay over Louisiana State University's continued refusal to meet the legal and moral requirements of an adequate and satisfactory response to reports of sexual harassment and abuse made by women enrolled in the university. Failure to heed and support these students who were victims of unwanted and unwarranted sexually related incidents that were both debilitating and with long lasting effects is both inexplicable and inexcusable.

From the minimal disciplinary actions taken with regard to the employees held responsible for the university's failure to provide protection and remedies for the victims of sexual abuse, the committee can only conclude that the university remains tone deaf not only to these victims, but to all of the women of Louisiana who demand that the wrong be set right.

Apologies, explanations, and promises to do better in the future constitute a meager and insufficient response.

In order to restore trust, there must be consequences.

The committee hereby requests that the university reconsider the punishment meted out and take action to terminate the employees it holds responsible for mishandling the reports of sexual abuse and to continue to identify and properly discipline any other culpable individuals.