**Behavior Assessment Team**

For many years, Purdue West Lafayette has had in place an informal network of colleagues who have worked together to identify and address troubling situations involving students. I have formalized this process and created a **Behavior Assessment Team** to identify and address situations in which the behavior of students, or other members of the campus community, indicates they may pose a threat to themselves or others.

**The goals of the Behavior Assessment Team are:**

- to provide early review and intervention to help assure the health, safety, and success of students and other members of the university community,
- to implement response plans to threats on the campus.

The **Behavior Assessment Team** meets on a regular basis and as needed. The **Team’s** standing membership includes:

- Dr. Tom Robinson, Vice President for Student Services, **Chair**
- Dr. Tony Hawkins, Dean of Students
- Dr. Steve Akers, Executive Associate Dean of Students (responsible for student conduct)
- Dr. Susan Prieto-Welch, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services
- John Cox, Interim Purdue Police Chief
- Carol Shelby, Senior Director of Environmental Health and Public Safety
- Barb Frazee, Executive Director of University Residences
- Sandy Monroe, Assistant Vice President for Student Services
- Karen Orr, Stuart & Branigin, University Legal Counsel

Colleagues from other offices or units are included depending on the case and/or if other expertise is needed (e.g. International Students and Scholars, PUSH, Disability Resource Center, Academic Schools and Colleges, Libraries, Enrollment Management, Purdue Fire Department, religious leaders, University News Service, etc.).

The **Behavior Assessment Team** reviews reports of troublesome behaviors, with consideration given to all confidentiality laws and standards. The **Team’s** discussions include: (a) understanding how the individual is interacting on campus and in the community; (b) identifying existing points of communication and support; and (c) developing an action plan to respond to the situation. Work of the **Team** is intended to be proactive, but depending on the case, it may need to react quickly to a particular situation.

Throughout, the distinction between “disturbed” and “disturbing” behavior guides the discussion of the **Behavior Assessment Team**. An individualized assessment of each situation takes place, and the review focuses on the conduct/behavior that is being exhibited by the particular student.

Thomas B. Robinson
Vice President for Student Services

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