



**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST**

309 Whitmore Administration Building
Amherst, MA 01003-9313

Office of the General Counsel

voice: 413.545.2204
fax: 413.545.3138
[www.massachusetts.edu/
office_of_the_general_counsel](http://www.massachusetts.edu/office_of_the_general_counsel)

TO: University of Massachusetts Amherst Campus
FROM: Associate General Counsel
RE: NOTICE OF MANDATORY INCORPORATION OF VAWA DEFINITIONS

The University of Massachusetts (“University”) prohibits sex and gender based discrimination and sexual violence consistent with state and federal laws, including Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (“VAWA”), Title VII, and M.G.L. chapter 151B. Regulations interpreting the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA) become effective today, July 1, 2015. These regulations impose new requirements that require immediate implementation. This includes the incorporation of new definitions for stalking, dating violence and domestic violence.

The University of Massachusetts’ policy on Sexual Harassment is being revised and its related standards are in the process of being developed. The revised policy and standards will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. Once approved, the terms defined in the new policy and related standards will be immediately adopted into the University’s Code of Student Conduct and campus policies.

Until final approval by the Board of Trustees, the below definitions are hereby incorporated by reference into the Amherst Campus’ Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures and the Code of Student Conduct:

A. Stalking.

Any course of conduct (more than one act) directed at a specific person (directly, indirectly, through a third party or other means) that places that person in reasonable fear for his or her safety or the safety of others.

B. Dating and Domestic Violence:

- Abuse, (including; but not limited to physical and/or sexual), or threats of such abusive violence committed by one intimate partner who is, or has been in, a romantic or intimate relationship with another intimate partner.

- Domestic violence and dating violence can occur between current or former intimate partners, who have dated or lived together. Domestic violence can occur between current or former intimate partners who are married, have been married, or have a child together. Both Domestic and Dating violence can occur in opposite-sex and same-sex relationships.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan P. LaVallee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nathan P. LaVallee, Esq.
Associate Counsel
Office of the General Counsel