

Introduction: Best Practices for Faculty / Student Interactions Syllabus Insert

The Faculty Senate Sexual Misconduct Working Group listened to and worked with UM student survivors. We are proud of the resulting initiative: a syllabus insert that we are hopeful will disarm faculty predators from assaulting students in the future. You can obtain the insert [here](#).

The Best Practices for Faculty / Student Interactions Syllabus Insert is optional. It follows a new tradition of other commitments to best practices, such as syllabus inserts that avow to accommodate disabilities and to create inclusive pedagogy. It was devised with undergraduate students in mind, but the document is equally important in defining best practices for graduate student/faculty interaction.

Our goal is that, by adopting these Best Practices, faculty commit to safe interactions with students and students come to recognize their right to expect these practices in ALL classes.

Instructors make 5 pledges in this document:

1. To conduct office hours with the door open unless the student requests a closed-door meeting;
2. To document meeting times with students so that this record can be reviewed;
3. To meet students individually only at university venues;
4. To conduct off-campus meetings only at places where alcohol is not served;
5. To communicate electronically with students only on university platforms and not on social media, text, and non-university apps.

The last part of the document provides resources for students to report sexual and gender-based misconduct.

Please consider adopting this insert in your classrooms this year.