

Indiana University School of Medicine Committee Report Template

Please submit this report to Rebekah Bredenbeck at rdbreden@iu.edu

Committee Name: Teacher Learner Advocacy Committee (TLAC)

Committee Chair Name: Marly P. Bradley, MD JD

Committee Chair Email: mpbradle@iupui.edu

Meeting Frequency: once per month, every 3rd Thursday, 11am-12:30pm

What is the mission of your committee? (100 words)

The mission of TLAC has been to promote professionalism in the learning environment. We have been responsible for investigating allegations of misconduct and instances believed to have negatively impacted learning. Historically, we have fulfilled our duties primarily reactively (investigation of reports),. However, we also were charged with being proactive in our efforts.

What has your committee accomplished this year? (250 words)

As in years past, we have continued to work on increasing awareness of our committee and its purpose. Learners (mostly students) are the biggest utilizers of our services. Therefore, we rely heavily on the passion and efforts of our student members. We have investigated a number of reports of misconduct. Due to confidentiality issues, I am not at liberty to discuss the cases in detail.

What I can say with confidence is that, given the survey results from graduating students, there are far more concerns regarding unprofessionalism that exist but never come to our attention for investigation. We cannot fix what we do not know to be broken. The biggest reason for students'/residents'/fellow learners' failure to come forward remains the fear of retaliation. We, as a committee, have struggled with how to make the IUSM community at large comfortable with and trusting of the investigative process.

As a committee, we served an advisory role for the development of the school's first Ombuds Office. This office will largely become a point of first contact for learners with concerns about maltreatment.

What goals does your committee have for the next academic year? How can the Faculty Steering Committee help you to accomplish those goals? (150 words)

The answer to this particular question is a work in progress. TLAC's mission has drastically changed. We will no longer be involved in the actual investigation of reports of misconduct or maltreatment. The entire reporting system has changed. TLAC's charge has now changed to being exclusively proactive (and perhaps advisory in some aspects). TLAC will be made aware of the data (from reports) and will need to find ways to address these concerns at large. Likely, our committee will be significantly more involved in programming and faculty/learner development to help train learners and teachers to be more professional, teach more effectively, and learn properly.

I would imagine that the next report from TLAC will be much more informative, as TLAC's new mission will be very different moving forward.

FSC can assist by helping to connect other IUSM committees with TLAC, in an effort to enhance collaborative work and programming in the area of faculty and learner development.