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UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY TO EXAMINE NEW STUDENT-INFORMATION REGULATIONS

DAYTON, Ohio — University of Dayton officials are consulting student groups and campus organizations before deciding how new amendments to the Higher Education Act will affect current University practices about releasing student information.

Amendments to the act were passed by Congress in September, including new provisions concerning student information and disciplinary proceedings.

In line with federal regulations, the University has traditionally protected student disciplinary records by treating them as confidential. “We don’t share personally identifiable information about students in disciplinary proceedings,” said William C. Schuerman, vice president for student development and dean of students. “And our students know that. We’re not going to change that until we have a chance to review the practice with students, faculty and University officials.”

As required by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the University publishes its policy on confidentiality of student records in the student handbook.

The new amendments change FERPA to allow (but not require) disclosure of the final results of disciplinary proceedings for crimes of violence and nonforcible sex offenses, although the only name that can be released without written consent is that of the accused student. Survivors of nonforcible sex offenses can now be informed of the outcome of student disciplinary hearings, and schools can also now release information about alcohol- and drug-related disciplinary violations.

Schuerman expects to consult student groups such as the student life council and student government association as well as faculty and administration groups to gauge campus opinion about confidentiality of student records.

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The portion of UD’s student handbook dealing with FERPA and records confidentiality is located on the Web at:
http://www.udayton.edu/~studev/studenthandbook/special.html#sturec.