

## WHAT IS DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR?

While the University is a place where the free exchange of ideas and concepts allows for debate and disagreement, all classroom behavior and discourse should reflect the values of respect and civility. Disruptive behavior is defined as behavior that interferes with university or university-sponsored activities, including but not limited to classroom related activities, study, teach, research, intellectual or creative endeavors, administration, service or the provision of communication, computing or emergency services.

## WHAT IS DISTRESSED BEHAVIOR?

Faculty and staff can play an extremely important role in referring students for help. You are frequently in a position to first observe signs of distress, which include: excessive class absences, declining academic performance, poor emotional control, excessive moodiness, sleeping and/or eating habits that change dramatically, excessive concern about personal health, persistent depression, talking openly about suicide, or repeatedly engaging in risky behavior.

If you are unsure about whether or how to intervene with a student who appears to be distressed, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is this student's behavior distressingly out of the ordinary?
- Is this beyond my skill level?
- Is the behavior getting worse?
- Does the behavior place anyone at risk?
- Am I feeling like I want to talk with someone about my observations and concerns?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, it is a good idea to consult with a colleague. Call the Student Health and Counseling Services (503-725-2800) and ask to talk with the on-call counselor.

If the situation requires immediate attention, contact Campus Public Safety at 503-725-4404.

The following offices are represented as part of the SOCC:

- Office of the Dean of Students (5-4422)
- Office of Residence Life (5-2450)
- Campus Public Safety Office (5-4407)
- Center for Student Health and Counseling (5-2800)

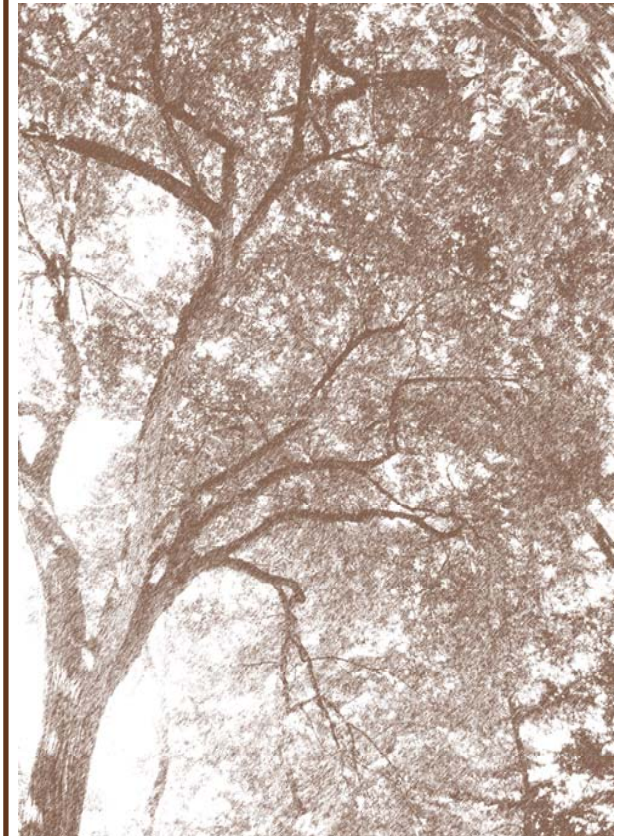
To contact the SOCC, you may contact any of the offices listed above.

The SOCC also regularly consults with other offices such as:

- Affirmative Action
- Disability Resource Center
- Office of International Affairs
- PSU General Counsel
- Women's Resource Center



## Guide to Working with Distressed or Disruptive Students



### Students of Concern Committee

Office of the Dean of Students



# STUDENTS OF CONCERN COMMITTEE

**T**he purpose of the Students of Concern Committee (SOCC) is to assess and coordinate the response to student issues and concerns which require intervention in order to help the campus community and its members feel safe and supported. Addressed concerns may include specific incidents or just general concerns about the behavior of a student or group of students. Issues of student conduct are referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for a conduct hearing. SOCC reports to the Vice Provost for Student Affairs.

## What is your role?

As a member of the PSU community, you provide students with the education and services they need to enjoy a successful college experience. At times, you may encounter students who exhibit distressed or disruptive behaviors. The following guide will assist you in successfully helping these students.

If you ever feel threatened or encounter a situation that requires immediate attention, please contact Campus Public Safety at 503-725-4404.

## Procedures of the SOCC:

- Assess the concerning behavior in order to understand and be able to communicate the nature of and extent of the concern.
- Work with people who may be affected and need support, including friends, roommates, spouse, family, faculty, etc.
- Collaborate with appropriate offices according to protocols. If the student is a member of an organization such as Athletics, the SOCC will collaborate with that organization to support the students involved.
- Assure that appropriate services are provided (direct and indirect).
- Provide follow up and outreach as needed.
- Conduct a post-incident review with key participants to assess the situation and the adequacy and effectiveness of current procedures.



## What types of behavior or incidents should I be concerned about?

- Problematic student situations involving medical or psychological concerns
- Writings or assignments that are threatening or display excessive distress
- Students that are excessively disruptive of the administrative, teaching, or learning environment
- Student death or significant trauma

## Is the information shared with the committee kept confidential?

The members of the SOCC, as administrative agents in an educational institution, adhere to the laws and standards governing the disclosure of information to third party both within and external to the University. Such information is only disclosed on an administrative need to know basis and only according to the relevant statutes that govern such disclosure.

The Center for Student Health and Counseling employees are governed by additional laws and ethical codes regarding the disclosure of information (medical and psychological records) to third parties of clients or patients under their care.