CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES
SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY FUNDS AND TRAINING

The Dean of Students mission is to support students on and off campus. This includes advocating on behalf of parents, and providing programs and services designed to enhance the academic and personal success of our students. Case managers help students cope with complex situations such as personal, health-related or academic problems by providing support, advice and access to appropriate resources.

A CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH

Students of Concern

The Dean of Students case management team oversaw 1,200 cases in the past year — 214 of these were students of concern.

When students show extreme signs of difficulty such as behavioral or personality changes, lack of engagement or aggression, they may be referred to the Students of Concern (SOC) Committee. The committee fosters early identification of concerns about students. Early review of problematic situations can reduce the impact to a student and/or the classroom, social or living environment.

Spring 2015 snapshot:

- 110 students
- 92 percent of students completed the semester
- 3 – 16 offices coordinated for each student (average = 6)
- 26.3 percent were a threat of harm to self
- 24.6 percent were a threat of harm to others
- 49 percent needed coordinated care

Student cases are on the rise as word spreads about the Dean of Students’ services. We have found that more students, faculty, staff and parents are contacting the office to consult about their friends, students and children who may be having hardships.

Student withdrawals

Parents often work with with the Dean of Students office when their student is considering withdrawal from classes and the University. Psychological reasons such as depression and anxiety related illnesses account for the highest number of withdrawals.

“This past May our son, Kevin was seriously injured in a fall while at Binghamton University. We received the 3 a.m. phone call that every parent dreads. The hospital was calling to tell us that our son had suffered a head injury and to please get there as soon as possible. While my husband and I rushed to his side (we were over four hours away) we received a call from Dean of Students [Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Case Management Services] Beth Riley. She assured us that she would stay with our son until we arrived. It gave us comfort knowing that Kevin wasn’t alone.

Beth was wonderful throughout our stay. She gave us information on free lodging and even brought us a goodie bag filled with nutritious snacks and drinks. She kept in touch with us throughout our stay in the hospital and notified our son’s professors about his accident. Even after we were home, she was able to help Kevin work with his professors to make up missed exams. We can’t thank Beth enough for what she did to help us make a very stressful time a little more manageable. We’re happy to report that our son is fully recovered and just started his sophomore year at Binghamton.

Sincerely,
Debbie and Mike DeLuca
PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

The Emergency Fund

When an emergency strikes, students often need case management support and resources quickly. They may contact the Dean of Students office to discuss resources available on- and off-campus, including temporary financial assistance to cover essential expenses. On campus, there is help available in the form of short-term loans or grants, as well as the Student Emergency Fund.

Emergency funds have been used for:

- Emergency travel for students due to a loss of a parent, sibling or grandparent
- Emergency travel for families due to injury or hospitalization of a student
- Hospitalization costs not covered by insurance
- International student support, i.e. interpreters, travel needs
- Comfort care packages
- Rent and food assistance until financial aid funding comes through

Staff Training

In order to stay current with changing and evolving laws, our Dean of Students staff needs additional and indispensable training. As we learn and talk more about Title IX and threat assessment — and train additional staff in these areas — we are seeing an increase in reports.

Thus, we are hoping to bring professionals in these key areas to campus to train our staff to be mindful and sensitive investigators of these delicate, and sometimes gruesome, cases. Providing the highest quality training to our staff will ensure that we can guide students through the Student Conduct process with as much skill and support as possible.

A CHANGING CAMPUS CLIMATE

Title IX

Sexual assault on college campuses is making national news, and Binghamton University is not immune from this issue. We experience sexual assaults, stalking and domestic violence incidents on par with other Universities.

In 2014-15, 100 percent of the staff in the Division of Student Affairs completed First Responder training. After this training the Dean of Students office saw an increase in reported Title IX cases — Student Affairs staff were better educated and felt more comfortable identifying issues and bringing forward concerns.

- 108 students
- 58 cases

On July 7, 2015, Governor Cuomo signed “Enough is Enough” legislation to combat sexual assault on college and university campuses statewide. The new law requires all colleges to adopt a set of comprehensive procedures and guidelines, including a uniform definition of affirmative consent, a statewide amnesty policy, and expanded access to law enforcement to ensure the safety of all students attending colleges in New York State.

As a result, we expect more students will be involved with gender violence in the coming year. It will also be a cultural shift for all of us on campus, and we must now educate every student, and everyone who will work with students, on what it means to give active consent.

Threat Assessment

- 9 students (including one from SUNY Broome)
- Levels can include threat to community, threat to self, faculty, students or administrators, and stalking
- Punishments can include removal from class, ban from campus, detainment or expulsion

The Dean of Students office also works to ensure health care is in place that will provide the student with the help and support they need. Although the student may not be allowed on campus at the moment, with treatment they may be able to return. The goal is not to punish, but to wrap the student in a support system in which they can be healthy and successful.