**Cheyney University Policy Number FA 2013-1002**

**Policy Title: CU Dating Violence Policy**

**Approved by**: FA Council

President’s Cabinet

**History:** Issued – 9-5-13

Revised – 10-2-13

**Related Policies**:

**Additional References**:

**A. Purpose:** Young people are at enormous risk for interpersonal violence. Nearly 1.5 million students nationwide experience physical abuse from a

dating partner each year. The purpose of this policy is to interpret and apply the Cheyney

University of Pennsylvania Regulations pertaining to the rights and responsibilities of students and school employees in the context of dating violence and sexual violence within the Cheyney University Campus. Universities are in a unique position to implement prevention and intervention programs that will reach students where they spend the majority of their day. Cheyney University is in a position to become a leader on school response to dating violence and sexual violence. Although several universities throughout the country have made

tremendous efforts to systemically address dating violence and sexual violence, the vast majority of universities have no policies that directly address these issues.

Cheyney University is governed by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

(PASSHE). We also are required by the Federal Jeanne Clery Act to provide a Dating Violence

Policy which applies to dating violence and sexual violence. From this policy, we will afford victims of dating violence and sexual violence the safety and protection they need.

**B. Scope:** Students, Staff, Faculty, Parents and/or Guardians

**C. Definition (s):**

**Accommodation**: a change or modification to a student’s school enrollment, participation or environment, which increases access to meaningful education or safety for a student who is experiencing dating violence or sexual violence.

**Cultural competence**: the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that enable Cheyney University employees to

educate and respond effectively to students and parents from diverse cultures, groups,

and communities.

**Dating partner**: any person, regardless of sex or gender identity, involved in a relationship with another person, where the relationship is primarily characterized by social contact of a sexual or romantic nature, whether casual, serious, short-term or long-term.

**Dating violence**: the use of abusive behaviors by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate or control a current or former dating partner. Dating violence includes but is not limited to:

**Physical abuse**: any intentional unwanted contact with the victim’s body by either the perpetrator or an object within the perpetrator’s control, regardless of whether such contact causes pain or injuries to the victim.

**Emotional abuse**: the intentional infliction of mental or emotional distress by threat, coercion, stalking, humiliation, or unwanted other verbal or nonverbal conduct.

**Sexual abuse**: any sexual behavior or contact by the perpetrator that is unwanted by the victim and/or interferes with the victim’s ability to consent to or control the circumstances of sexual behavior.

**Parent**: parent or guardian or other legal custodian of a student.

**Perpetrato**r: an individual who has committed any act or threat of dating or sexual violence as defined in this policy.

**Predominant aggressor**: the person determined to be the most significant, rather than the first, aggressor taking into consideration the circumstances of both the immediate incident and the course of conduct by the partners during the entirety of the relationship.

**Protection order**: a civil or criminal court order issued in any jurisdiction for the protection of a victim of

dating violence or sexual violence that restricts the conduct of an individual toward the victim.

**Safety plan**: an individualized set of actions, strategies, and resources that addresses a student’s safety with regard to dating violence or sexual violence.

**University employee**: any person who is employed by Cheyney University, regardless of position.

**Sexual violence**: sexual assault, abuse or stalking of an individual, whether the perpetrator is known to the victim or a stranger.

**Student**: any individual who is or has been enrolled and is or has been in attendance, or is eligible to enroll, at Cheyney University – commuter or resident.

**Victim**: the student who is experiencing dating violence or sexual violence as defined in this policy.

**D. Policy and Procedures(s):**

Applicability

This policy applies in any situation where a student’s rights and responsibilities,

are implicated. Student rights and responsibilities may be affected by the actions of other

students at or during school, including before and after school hours, while traveling in

vehicles owned or funded by Cheyney University, and at all school-sponsored or school- related events and activities. Student rights and responsibilities may also be implicated by the actions of non-students or by actions that take place off school grounds. Acts or

threats of dating violence or sexual violence violate a student’s rights to access a

meaningful education and the right to safety on the school campus. Students who have experienced dating violence or sexual violence have the right to request that Cheyney University address their rights according to this policy, regardless of whether the school takes additional disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator, if the alleged perpetrator is a student.

**Confidentiality**

All information concerning a student’s status as a victim or perpetrator of dating violence or sexual violence or as the petitioner or respondent of a protection order provided to Cheyney

University or its employees shall be retained in the strictest confidence by Cheyney

University and its employees, except to the extent that disclosure is requested or consented to

in writing by the student or is required by applicable federal or state laws.

School employees shall refrain from sharing confidential student information with other school employees, students, or community members, unless disclosure is required by law or school policy or is necessary to protect the student’s safety. The right to confidentiality extends to disclosures to a minor student’s parent(s), unless disclosure is otherwise required by law or school policy

**Duty of University**

Social Equity in conjunction with the Guidance Department and/or Cheyney Police shall provide a specialized response to dating violence and sexual violence on campus and act as a liaison between the university and students who are experiencing dating violence or sexual violence. They shall inform the student of this policy and his/her rights under the policy, including accommodations and grievance process. Provide the student with a list of local resources, including on and off campus services, and refer him/her to appropriate services. If desired by the student, create a safety plan that addresses on and off campus safety. Assist with enforcement of protection orders as defined by this policy.