

March 17, 2016

Letter to the President,

OSSTF D 35 Brock University Support Staff is deeply distressed that the University Senior Administration appears to be more concerned about the University's reputation than the safety of the members of our community. A recent CBC News report indicates that the University's Human Resources Department instructed a student to keep quiet about a sexual assault on campus. The University's subsequent failure to act quickly when the investigation was completed in January 2016 re-victimized the survivor and put others in our community at risk for a further two months.

Along with several other Unions on this campus, OSSTF has maintained that the University's existing Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy is ineffective. This incident only serves as concrete evidence that the policy is not worth the paper it's written on. It does nothing to assure complainants that they will be heard and that their issues will be addressed appropriately and in a timely manner. The University administration must step back from their current line of defense and join with others in the Brock community who are taking a leadership role in moving forward with a survivor centered approach to support individuals when they disclose these types of situations.

The University must ensure that the tools and mechanisms are available for all members of the Brock community to feel safe and to know that they will be heard and supported in cases where they have been victimized. OSSTF strongly encourages students and all members of the University community to report incidences of sexual assault, harassment and violence. Students seeking support should contact the Brock Student Sexual Violence Support Centre at <http://www.asaferbrock.org>. OSSTF members who are in need of support can contact our office at ext. 4978 or visit TH 305.

Let us not take thought for our separate interests, but let us help one another.

OSSTF D 35

Brock University Support Staff