Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused or revealed by violations of the Student Code of Conduct and/or campus policy. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders.

Practices and programs reflecting restorative purposes will respond to campus incidents by:

1. identifying and taking steps to repair harm,
2. involving all stakeholders, and
3. transforming the traditional relationship between students and the institution by the way we respond to incidents.

Some of the programs and outcomes typically identified with restorative justice include:

- Victim offender mediation (if possible/appropriate)
- Conferencing/Programming
- Victim assistance
- Ex-offender assistance
- Restitution
- Community service

Three principles form the foundation for restorative justice:

1. Justice requires that we work to restore those who have been injured.
2. Those most directly involved and affected by crime should have the opportunity to participate fully in the response if they wish.
3. Institutions’ role is to preserve a just student environment, and the student role is to be a fully participating partner working to build and maintain that environment.

Restorative programs are characterized by four key values:

1. **Encounter**: Create opportunities for victims, offenders and community members who want to do so to meet to discuss the incident and its aftermath
2. **Amends**: Expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused
3. **Reintegration**: Seek to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of the campus community
4. **Inclusion**: Provide opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution