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The Mediation – Party Proposals & Ethical Considerations

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Party Proposals

- > Explore the proposals
 - If unreasonable or will be rejected, discuss ways to modify the proposal.
 - Be subtly evaluative.
- Communicating a resolution proposal (i.e., terms)
 - Avoid criticism of the proposal unless asked or unless you believe your opinion will not hinder further discussions.

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💢 Unreasonable Party Demands

- > Won't lead to agreement.
- > Won't be able to achieve demand in the next stage.
- ➤ Won't be seen as a compromise gesture.
- > May be met with an unreasonable response.

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Techniques for Keeping the Parties Talking

- Bracketing issues
- Mediator's proposal



- > Time to consider
- ➤ Risks of no agreement
 - Future administrative process
 - · Less control over outcome
 - Time considerations
 - Emotional considerations
 - Healing

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🌉 Terms for Resolution

Resolution Agreements, generally.

- ➤ Terms/outcome of the resolution are negotiable and may be restricted by the applicable policy.
- May result in party-imposed corrective or punitive measures for a Respondent; remedies for Complainant.
- ➤ Informal resolution agreements may become binding according to their terms (i.e., contractual in nature).
- Outcome should be enforceable by the institution.

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Types of Remedies

Types of remedies may include:

- > Complainant or respondent relocate their housing.
- ➤ Each party is assigned to a different dining hall, workout facility, area of library.
- ➤ Complainant/Respondent withdraws from a class that the parties have together.
- ➤ Respondent writes an apology letter to Complainant acknowledging harm caused.
- > Indefinite mutual no contact order

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Types of Corrective or Punitive Measures

Types of corrective or punitive measures may include:

- Withdrawal from extra-curricular activities (athletics, student groups, Greek life, etc.)
- > Avoidance of campus activities (athletics events, programs, concerts, etc.)
- ➤ Enter counseling or other educational programming relating to alleged misconduct.
- > Temporary withdrawal from the institution
- > Permanent withdrawal from the institution

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Ethical Considerations

- > Conflicts of interest
- > Confidentiality
- > Pressuring to reach agreement
- > Subsequent disclosure of information
- > Appearance of impropriety
- Disclosure of background
- > Impartiality
- > Mental competency of a party
- > Autonomy informed consent
- ➤ Honesty
- > Role boundaries
- > Privileged communications

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The Resolution Agreement

- > Resolution Agreement must be in writing signed by:
 - Complainant
 - Respondent
 - Title IX Coordinator(?)

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Preparing the Agreement

- ➤ Resolution Agreement includes:
 - Confirmation of voluntary participation.
 - The agreed-to terms of resolution.
 - Consequences for breach of the agreement.
 - Facilitator remained neutral, objective, and unbiased.
 - Institutional record keeping responsibility.
 - Confidentiality for the process, unless otherwise required by law or applicable policy.

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Other Possible Terms

- ➤ The parties agree to waive right to appeal the resolution agreement (optional) and waive formal grievance process.
- > Title IX Coordinator will facilitate the agreed upon outcomes.
- ➤ Non-disclosure clause
- ➤ Non-disparagement clause

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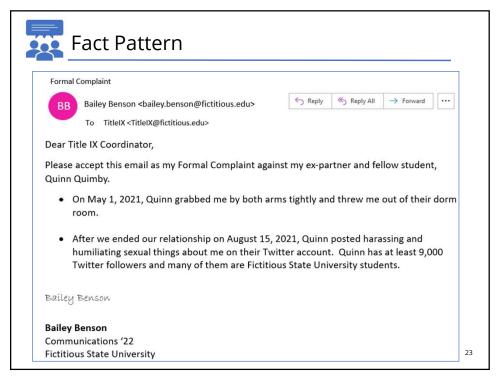
Failure to Reach Agreement

- ➤ Explain...
 - The initial inability to reach an agreement does not mean we stop trying, unless a party says so.
- ➤ Methods of continuing dialogue
 - Date certain to resume
 - Follow-up phone conferences
 - Meeting with each party
 - Time to think
 - Time to consult others
- ➤ If efforts to resolve fail, formal complaint returns to the Grievance Process.

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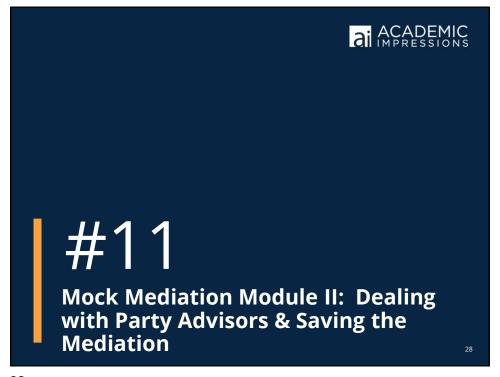




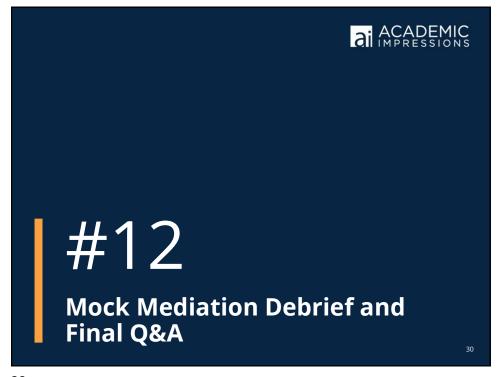














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