

## **SORT Membership**

- Dean of Students
- Director of Safety and Security/Chief of Campus Police
- Coordinator of Disability Services
- Faculty Representative with expertise in behavioral and mental health
- Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

## **Disruptive Classroom Behavior**

Disruptive behavior in the classroom can take many forms. At a very low level some matters are merely basic decorum and can be handled by conventional classroom management techniques. Some behaviors require disciplinary steps through the office of the dean of students. Increasingly though, behaviors resulting from diagnosed mental conditions or other physical problems are exhibited in the instructional setting.

Suggestions presented in the Disruptive Behavior brochure are intended to help faculty characterize and separate student actions which rise to the level of threatening under the **Conduct Code**\* versus particular behavior(s) that are not typical and call into question if the student could pose harm to him/herself and or the campus community.

\*Code of Student Rights,  
Responsibilities, and Conduct

[www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtml](http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtml)

## **INDIANA UNIVERSITY KOKOMO**

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University Police: (765) 455-9363

Vice Chancellor of  
Student Affairs

Main Building  
KO 290

Ext. 9227, (765) 455-9227  
[sgieseck@iuk.edu](mailto:sgieseck@iuk.edu)

**SORT**  
Student Observation Response Team

 **INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
KOKOMO**

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10/11

## What is SORT?

**SORT** (Student Observation Response Team) is a 5-person group whose task is to assess student behavior identified as sufficiently erratic/bizarre/unusual where deliberate and expedient intervention may be warranted.

The **SORT** group supports and assists faculty and staff who are experiencing a student behavior problem and seek guidance in handling the concern. A guiding objective of SORT is to be proactive and manage developing problems to avoid emergencies/ crises.

In general, **SORT** referrals are identified as threatening type behaviors where safety is an issue in contrast to a not-so-serious classroom occurrence where discipline via the dean of students is the more appropriate recourse.

## Operational Scope

The role of the team is consultative and advisory. The objectives of a behavioral assessment will be to:

- identify the problem.
- determine if the incident(s) requires immediate attention and by whom (including professional mental health counseling).
- recommend if any procedural processes are necessary (such as student discipline).
- present to the faculty (staff) member strategies for dealing with the student and/ or behavior, if the assessment is judged to be non-threatening.

## Initiating a SORT Review

1. Faculty or staff must determine if the “immediate” student conduct rises to the level of an imminent safety concern for oneself, students in the classroom, the student under question (e.g. suicide), or the general campus community. University Police\* are the first response in matters of urgency. Call ext. 9363, (765) 455-9363.
2. If the conduct referenced in item #1 above is temporarily manageable, but faculty or staff believe the behavior warrants assessment, then a request to **SORT** should be made. The vice chancellor of student affairs or any team member will schedule a **SORT** meeting within one working day of the notification. Call ext. 9360, (765) 455-9360 or e-mail [jtharp@iuk.edu](mailto:jtharp@iuk.edu).
3. The faculty member (staff) requesting assistance will be expected to participate in the review. Any other campus staff that knows the student may also be consulted. All incidents reported to **SORT** will be confidential.\*\*
4. The **SORT** group, after considering all information presented, will recommend a course of action.

\*\* Personal observations are not confidential; it is not a FERPA violation for faculty/staff to share this information with **SORT**.

## Choosing the Best Course of Action

- Some student behaviors, although inappropriate, can be handled by traditional classroom management techniques.
- **Conduct Code** violations are enumerated in the **Code of Student Rights**, Responsibilities, and Conduct\* and should be addressed by the dean of students.
- Behaviors that suggest mental or physical problems should be referred to **SORT**.
- A companion brochure, “Disruptive Classroom Behavior” is intended to be a tool in determining the best course of action.
- Faculty and staff should not hesitate in contacting the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs or any **SORT** member to consult on solutions or next steps.  
Contact:

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs  
Main Building, KO 290  
ext. 9227, (765) 455-9227  
[sgieseck@iuk.edu](mailto:sgieseck@iuk.edu)

**SORT** does not abrogate the responsibilities of the director of safety and security/university police.

\* [www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtml](http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/index.shtml)