

## HISTORY OF STIX

Dr. Sylvia Gray became the first full-time Title IX Coordinator for the University of the South in October of 2017. She quickly realized that she would need the support of willing and dedicated students to educate the campus on the policies, procedures and resources provided by the Title IX Office. Dr. Gray came up with the idea to begin a student group that could serve as an extension of her office for the purpose of peer education. On September 12, 2018 at 4:49 pm central time, Dr. Gray reached out to several students to share this idea and extend an invitation to them to create such a group. By 7:35 pm, Laws McCullough “Mac” Bouldin, then president of the Student Government Association, returned Dr. Gray’s email with the first response of interest. Mac then followed up with Dr. Gray and the Provost, Nancy Berner to begin discussing next steps. The Provost agreed that the group could be formed through the student government association. Mac and Dr. Gray went about the business of talking to students, creating and editing a charter, and working to have the charter approved through SGA.

On Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 4:39 pm, then Vice Chancellor, John McCardell wrote to Mac, Dr. Gray, the Dean of Students Office, the Provost, and the office of General Counsel, to share that the charter for STIX *“has now passed before the eyes of all those on this message. This constitutes approval and a green light to go forward.”* The University then closed for Winter break. Upon returning on January 15, 2019, Mac emailed the various student constituency groups found in the charter of STIX at 3:19 pm. Mac stated that the charter was approved and that *“we are ready to begin....”* Mac asked each group to identify who would be best suited to fill the reserved seats on the committee for their respective organizations. Mac provided a deadline of two weeks to select committee members and return those names to him. During those two weeks, Mac and Dr. Gray met to discuss who might be best suited to hold the inaugural position of being the first appointed Chair of STIX. Mac and Dr. Gray both agreed that a passionate and educated student by the name of Kaylei Goodine would be an ideal fit. On January 25, 2019, Mac met with Kaylei and she accepted the offer to serve as the first Chair. Kaylei then reached out to Dr. Gray to meet about the goals and expectations of STIX so that they could develop a plan to move forward. On February 6, 2019 at 1:28 pm, all the seats of STIX were officially filled. On March 3 between 1pm and 3pm, the first training for STIX was completed by Dr. Gray. By March 10, 2019 the entire first class of STIX was trained and all members worked alongside Dr. Gray and Kaylei to lay out the goals for the coming year.

In the following year, STIX worked with Dr. Gray to build out a conceptual framework for training, programming, and education. Dr. Gray shared with Nellie Fagan, the second appointed chair, that she wanted all students to normalize sexual integrity as a personal value. Nellie agreed and supported the idea that STIX spend more time being trained on these concepts so that they could educate their peers. Dr. Gray arranged for STIX to spend the Advent (Fall) semester completing workshops on sex education and peer facilitation. Dr. Gray, Nellie, and STIX created a joint training module to pilot peer training for student groups. In the Easter semester (Spring) of 2020, Nellie connected with STIX member Sara Brandenburg to form a logo for STIX. On February 19, 2020 at 11:28 am, Nellie Fagan, sent Dr. Gray the agreed upon logo for STIX. After

acceptance of the logo, STIX was ready to launch their educational plan, achieve awareness goals, and encourage the value of sexual integrity. However, unbeknownst to them, the campus and the world, a global pandemic would ensue. The University of The South and Universities worldwide, were closed and STIX had to suspend their plans and goals for the upcoming year.

In the Advent semester of 2020, the University was able to resume classes with a combination of in-person and online formats. The third appointed chair, Olivia Fox, decided that STIX should re-group, lead with purpose, and move forward with what they “could” do. The members of STIX utilized a small portion of the prior joint training module to go out and educate their student peers on Title IX and sexual integrity. STIX started their training with the Greek Life community while Dr. Gray continued to train Athletics, freshmen groups, the WICK, FYP mentors, and Orientation Leaders.

Today, the STIX committee stands strong and is continuing to evolve by contributing more ideas and serving the student body through programming, education, and normalizing the value of sexual integrity.