Separation of Academic/Physician Roles in the Provision of Sensitive Health Treatment

**Purpose:** Medical students may avoid treatment for serious medical conditions if they believe their grades or reputation within the medical school may be affected. This policy will prevent BUSM students from being evaluated by faculty who have provided sensitive health care for the student.

**Covered Parties:** BUSM faculty, students and staff.

**Defined Terms:** Sensitive health services include all mental health services as well as any other care for a health issue that the student defines as sensitive. The student must specify in writing that a non mental health issue is not sensitive. This statement must be kept in the student’s medical chart.

**Policy Statement:** Any BUSM faculty member or staff who provides any health services to BUSM medical students must have no involvement in the academic evaluation or promotion of the student receiving those services, unless the faculty has the student’s signed statement declaring the provided health service to be non-sensitive.

Each faculty member has the obligation to avoid any involvement in the academic evaluation or promotion of any student for whom they have provided psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services.

Health professionals who provide mental health services or other sensitive health services to medical students must have no involvement in the academic evaluation or promotion of the students receiving those services. Such faculty and staff may give lectures to a large class that includes the student but may not lead small group discussions, grade papers or serve as preceptors, course directors, or members of promotions or appeals committees.

- Students who determine that a faculty member who has provided psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services may be involved in their evaluation must immediately notify the faculty member who must recuse themselves immediately.
- The course/clerkship director should reassign the student to a new clinical site.
- If a faculty member determines that they will be involved in the academic evaluation or promotion of a student for whom they provided psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services, they must immediately notify the course/clerkship director. The course/clerkship director must reassign the student to a new clinical site or remove the faculty member from any role in supervision or evaluation of the student.

**Responsible Parties:** Faculty, students and staff.

- faculty must recuse themselves.
- students must request assignment to a non BMC clerkship.
- staff must expedite such rotations.