

Universities should not investigate or adjudicate accusations of sexualized violence

Letter to the editor

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Sexualized violence is a crime and, therefore, one would assume, the business of the police and the courts. The President's Council at Saint Mary's University, though, in its recent report, recommends that the university "find a way to conduct an effective investigation and adjudication of incidents of sexualized violence" (Report, p. 67). The council, that is, would have the university play the role of police and courts.

The report unfailingly refers to the accusers as victims and entreats us all to believe the victims, which I suppose will help make the investigation part go quickly.

It's not just that universities lack the necessary structures. It is, rather, that they are entirely without a mandate to serve as institutions of criminal justice.

Assault and rape are crimes. Leave dealing with incidents of them to the properly constituted authorities.