

Subject: Sexual Health Information Center (SHIC) Operations Placed on Hold

Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 at 1:25:41 PM Central Standard Time

From: Student Affairs

To: 2019-2020 Grinnell College Students

Grinnell College is committed to helping students make informed and safe decisions about their sexual health and behavior. We encourage all students to make use of the full range of [sexual respect](#) and [healthy sexuality resources](#) available on campus and in the community.

Last spring Student Affairs and SGA leadership established a Sexual Health Information Center (SHIC) Advisory Board in order to more effectively support SHIC's efforts, as well as ensure SHIC's practices aligned with campus policy and applicable laws. Over the course of the fall semester, as the advisory board gained a greater insight into SHIC's operation, the advisory board required that certain practices cease, including the sale of items to students.

In January, a meeting was convened with a local health care provider with the original intent of providing greater direction to SHIC leadership regarding the concerns associated with SHIC's medically-related education and services. After meeting with this professional, hearing their recommendations, and consulting with legal counsel, it became clear that the College needed to request that SHIC's operations be placed on hold. We have reached out to SHIC leadership and will work in partnership with them to determine a viable path forward.

The issues are complex and interrelated, and they have to do with:

- their lack of training and supervision in the services and education they provide,
- SHIC students' role as employees (and thus representatives of the College),
- their use of College-sourced dollars via the student activity fee.

In short, the risk and compliance issues (individual, organizational, and institutional) associated with SHIC's current operation and practices were such that it required our attention. SHIC and its membership were directed to stop distributing any consumer products or providing medical advice or medicine on behalf of the College. The SHIC office space will not be available for use until a clear path forward has been established. During this transition period, SHIC members will be invited to participate in training opportunities and partner with the Office of Student Health and Wellness (SHAW) to offer programming.

The College made these decisions in the best interest of the employees of SHIC and the institution as a whole. We recognize the students' commitment to SHIC and the role it plays for our students, and we hope SHIC leadership will be a part of the next evolution of this organization.

Students can find sexual health and other support resources by contacting the following offices:

- For gender-affirming supplies and resources, please contact Deka Spears, Program Coordinator of the Stonewall Resource Center at 641-269-9517.
- For sexual health and contraception, please contact SHAW at 641-269-3230.