



**REGULATION: FGCU-PR1.003**

**Non-Discrimination and  
Anti-Harassment Regulation**

*Effective Date of  
Regulation:*

**09/17/2013**

**A. General Statement**

1. Affirmation. Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) affirms its commitment to ensure that each member of the University community shall be permitted to work, study, participate in educational programs including those receiving federal funding, services and activities, or conduct business in an environment free from any form of illegal discrimination, including race, color, religion, age, disability (or handicap), sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation and veteran status, except as otherwise permitted by law. Admission to, and participation in, the educational programs and activities of FGCU shall be open to all qualified individuals regardless of race, color, religion, disability (or handicap), sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation or veteran status. The University strives to foster a community in which diversity and inclusion are valued and opportunity is realized. This Regulation creates a mechanism of procedures for applicants, students, employees, volunteers, visitors as well as vendors and contractors of the University community to file a complaint of alleged discrimination or harassment, to include sexual harassment.
2. Violation. It shall be a violation of this Regulation for any officer, university employee, student, visitor, agent, vendor, or contractor to discriminate against or harass, as hereinafter defined, any other officer, university employee, student, visitor, agent, vendor, contractor or applicant. Discrimination and harassment are forms of conduct which shall result in employee disciplinary action pursuant to University Regulations, and the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement. University vendors and contractors found to have violated this Regulation will receive sanctions or other punitive actions consistent with law and/or contract.

**B. Coverage**

1. Parties. All complaints of discrimination or harassment, unless otherwise provided herein, shall be adjudicated under this Regulation. Complaints between students, or where one student (the Respondent) is a student and not employed by the University, shall be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and adjudicated under the Student Code of Conduct. Students who are also employees may be subject to University disciplinary action as well as disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

2. Scope of prohibitions. This Regulation covers all employment practices, as well as educational, athletic, cultural and social programs, services and activities occurring at or sponsored by, FGCU.

C. Reporting

1. University Response. If the university becomes aware of activity which could be violative of this Regulation, it will take necessary actions, which may include an investigation, even when a complaint has not been filed. While all members of the university are expected to promptly report known activity which could violate this Regulation, only those in supervisory or managerial personnel may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to FGCU PR5.016 should they know of such activity and fail to report. Complaints will be promptly investigated, consistent with the University's Complaint Policy and Procedure. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) (nka The Office of Equity and Diversity) or, as necessary, the Office of the General Counsel will be responsible for ensuring the investigation of Complaints covered under this Regulation.
2. Responsibility of supervisors and managers. All supervisors and managers are encouraged to take steps necessary to prevent discrimination or harassment based on a protected class from occurring. They should clearly communicate to employees that such behavior will not be tolerated and that periodic training on these topics should be attended. Whenever an employee, student, or non-employee files a complaint, immediate and appropriate action is advisable. Any University supervisory or managerial employee who receives a report, observes or learns of an alleged violation of this Regulation has an absolute and unqualified duty to immediately report the alleged violation to the OIEC Director in a timely manner.
3. Responsibility of alleged victim. The person deeming any action or conduct as unwelcome is encouraged to so advise the offending party and inform him or her that it must stop. However, the alleged victim is not required to inform an alleged offender of the offensiveness of the behavior in order to make a claim under this Regulation. The University's Complaint Policy and Procedure should be used to address any concerns or issues.
4. Responsibility of employees involving conflicts of interest. Employees in a position of authority must resolve any actual or potential conflict of interest by taking necessary steps, including removing himself or herself from evaluative decisions concerning the other individual. If the employee in authority is unable to resolve the conflict of interest, he or she is required to inform his/her immediate supervisor promptly. Failure to resolve potential or actual conflicts of interest as described in this regulation may result in disciplinary action pursuant to University regulations.

D. Definitions

1. **Discrimination.** For the purposes of this Regulation, discrimination is defined as the intentional or unintentional treatment of any member of the University community differently than those who are similarly situated, or any unfair treatment solely based upon race, color, religion, age, disability (or handicap), sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation and/or veteran status.
2. **Harassment.** For the purposes of this Regulation, harassment, a form of discrimination, is defined as unwelcome conduct, including electronic and written communication, that is based upon race, color, religion, age, disability (or handicap), sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation and/or veteran status and is so severe, pervasive or persistent that it limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from, an educational program, undermines the responsibilities of the employee and/or creates a hostile working or learning environment.
3. **Sexual Harassment.** Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual attention, to included requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature from any person that is so severe, pervasive or persistent that it limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from, an educational program, undermines the responsibilities of the employee, and/or creates a hostile working or learning environment.
4. **Conflict of Interest.** When an individual evaluates or supervises another individual with whom he or she has, or desires to have, an amorous or sexual relationship, a conflict is created. The University discourages such amorous or sexual relations between employees and students. Such relationships, even when consensual, may be exploitive, and jeopardize the integrity of the educational process or work environment and may lead to charges of sexual harassment. The University requires the resolution of any conflict of interest created by these relationships. See Section C.3.
5. **Complainant.** A Complainant is a person or persons alleging a violation under this Regulation.
6. **Respondent.** A Respondent is a person or persons whose conduct is the subject of a complaint under this Regulation.
7. **Frivolous Complaint.** A frivolous complaint is one that is trivial, superficial, senseless or groundless and brought in bad faith.
8. **Retaliation.** Retaliation occurs when an officer, agent, contractor or employee takes an adverse action against a covered individual because he or she engaged in a protected activity under this Regulation. Therefore, an officer, agent, contractor or employee may not terminate, demote, harass or otherwise

"retaliate" against an individual for engaging in protected activity. Protected activity includes, but is not limited to, filing a discrimination charge, testifying or participating in any way in an investigation, proceeding, or lawsuit, opposing employment practices that one reasonably believes discriminates against individuals or encourages someone to exercise their rights.

9. Cooperation. All members of the university community are expected to cooperate in any university investigation of discrimination or harassment. An employee's failure to cooperate fully with an investigation will result in disciplinary action up to immediate termination for cause pursuant to FGCU-PR5.016.

10. Frivolous or False Complaints and/or False Information. Knowingly making frivolous, false or malicious statements or allegations under this Regulation will result in disciplinary action.

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*Action by Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees:*

*Approved: 09/17/2013*

*Law Implemented:*

*§760.10 Florida Statutes*

*History of Rule:*

*New 03/18/03*

*History of Regulation:*

*New 01/15/08, Amended 01/20/09; 01/19/10, 09/17/2013*

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