

## ***AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA***

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is committed to maintaining an environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors that is fair and responsible—an environment which is based on one's ability and performance.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha declares and affirms a policy of equal education and employment opportunities, affirmative action in employment, and nondiscrimination in providing services to the public. Therefore, the University of Nebraska at Omaha shall not discriminate against anyone based upon race\*, color, sex\*\*, sexual orientation (includes other characteristics, see 3.1.1 Board of Regents policy for employees and 5.1.1 Board of Regents policy for students), age, religion, disability, national or ethnic origin, marital status, Vietnam-era veteran status or any unlawful reason shall not be tolerated.

*\*Racial harassment is considered a form of racial discrimination.*

*\*\*Sexual harassment is considered a form of sex discrimination.*

In keeping with this commitment, the University also will not tolerate discrimination prohibited under this policy against students, faculty, staff, and visitors by anyone acting on behalf of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

### Statement of Sexual Harassment

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other physical, verbal, or visual conduct based on sex constitute sexual harassment when (1) submission to the conduct is an explicit or implicit term or condition of employment or academic standing, (2) submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for an employment or academic decision, or (3) the conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working/academic environment. This statement is in keeping with federal employment and education opportunity guidelines.

### Statement of Consensual Relationships

Although the University of Nebraska at Omaha does not prohibit romantic or sexual relationships between employees, it does discourage such consensual relationships between faculty and student or supervisor and employee.

All faculty, supervisors and other employees should understand that there are substantial risks in even an apparently consensual relationship where a power differential exists. That is, one of the parties is likely to have influence over the other's assignments, grades, or terms of employment. The inherent power differential between the parties may compromise freedom of choice.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha reaffirms the generally accepted ethical principle that situations in which one makes office evaluations of "intimates" should be avoided. If a close relationship with emotional ties develops, the faculty member or supervisor bears a special burden of accountability. That individual is advised to make suitable arrangements for the objective evaluation, for example, of the student, employee, or the prospective student or employee.

### Affirmative Action in Employment

The University of Nebraska has adopted a policy of affirmative action which;

- 1) Determines the extent to which under represented groups are under-utilized in major categories;
- 2) Develops goals for the future representation of individuals from traditionally under represented groups, as a result of the affirmative action plan;
- 3) Identifies and eliminates employment practices that adversely affect those protected by applicable law except where those practices are necessarily related to occupational qualification;
- 4) Adopts employment standards based on merit and valid job qualifications;
- 5) Develops a representative pool of employees;
- 6) Establishes systems to assure effective implementation of the Affirmative Action Plan.

### Procedures for Resolution of Complaints

Information on the University of Nebraska at Omaha's policy on prohibited discrimination and procedures for resolution of complaints is available in any one of a number of campus offices. Those offices include the Student Government Office, University Division Office, Campus Recreation, Women's Resource Center, Dean's Offices, the Library, the Information Center, Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Human Resources Office, the Chancellor's Office, Student Development Services, Academic Affairs, University Relations, Educational and Student Services, Counseling Center, and the Student Organizations and Leadership Programs Office.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha recognizes that the selection of instructional materials or teaching techniques involves highly creative, inventive and possibly unique approaches to communication, within the context of academic freedom. As a general rule, academic freedom in this context means that a faculty member has a professional obligation to respect the dignity of others, as well as the right of others to be free from fear, violence, or personal abuse.

All University of Nebraska at Omaha employees and students are responsible for helping to assure that the University avoids discrimination prohibited under its policy statement. **If anyone thinks he or she has experienced or witnessed such prohibited discrimination, he or she should immediately notify the Assistant to the Chancellor for Diversity and Equal Opportunity.** The University of Nebraska at Omaha forbids retaliation against anyone who in good faith has reported prohibited discrimination. However, accusations of prohibited discrimination are of utmost seriousness and should never be made casually and without cause. This policy shall not be used to bring frivolous or malicious charges against administrators, faculty, staff, students, or visitors.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha's policy is to investigate all such complaints thoroughly and promptly. To the fullest extent practicable, the University of Nebraska at Omaha will keep complaints and the terms of their resolution confidential. If an investigation confirms that prohibited discrimination has occurred, the University of Nebraska at Omaha will take corrective action, including such discipline up to and including termination of employment or academic suspension as is appropriate.