



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY**

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Human Resources

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Adopted: May 11, 2012

Supersedes: (see end of policy)

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

**SECTION I. SCOPE.**

This policy governs the commitment to the prevention and awareness of and response to sexual harassment at the University of Minnesota (University).

**SECTION II. DEFINITIONS.**

(a) **Sexual Harassment.** *Sexual harassment* shall mean unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

(1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or academic advancement in any University activity or program;

(2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis of employment or academic decisions affecting this individual in any University activity or program: or

(3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or academic environment in any University activity or program.

(b) **Retaliation.** *Retaliation* shall mean any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment against an individual because the individual has made a report of sexual harassment or has participated in an investigation of sexual harassment by or of a University community member including:

(1) firing, refusing to hire, or refusing to promote the individual;

(2) departing from any customary employment or academic practice regarding the individual;

(3) transferring or assigning the individual to a lesser position in terms of wages, hours, job classification, job security, employment or academic status;

(4) informing another student, staff or faculty member who does not have a need to know that the individual has made a complaint or participated in an investigation of a complaint of sexual harassment;

(5) impeding the individual's academic advancement in any University activity or program.

(c) **Member of the University Community.** *Member of the University community* shall mean any University faculty member, student, staff member, visitor or other individual engaged in any University activity or program.



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**SECTION III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.**

The following principles shall guide the commitment of the University for the prevention and awareness of and response to sexual harassment:

- (a) Consistent with its academic mission and standards, the University is committed to achieving excellence by working to create an educational, employment and residential living environment that are free from sexual harassment.
- (b) The University is committed to preventing and eliminating sexual harassment of faculty, staff and students through education and by encouraging all members of the University community to report any concerns or complaints about sexual harassment.
- (c) As a community of faculty, staff and students engaged in research, scholarship, artistic activity, teaching and learning or activities that support them the University seeks to foster an environment that is equitable, humane and responsible and where all members are treated with dignity and respect.

**SECTION IV. IMPLEMENTATION.**

The University shall:

- (a) prohibit sexual harassment or retaliation.
- (b) ensure that department heads, deans, provosts, chancellors, vice presidents, and other supervisors and managers take timely and appropriate action when they know or should know of the existence of sexual harassment. Other persons who suspect sexual harassment should report it to an appropriate person in their unit or to the University equal opportunity officer.
- (c) adopt procedures on each campus for investigating and resolving complaints of sexual harassment in coordination with the director of equal opportunity and affirmative action.
- (d) address violations of this policy through disciplinary or other corrective action up to and including termination of employment or academic dismissal.

**SECTION V. MONITORING.**

The president or delegate shall address complaints of sexual harassment consistent with this policy and law and remedy any discriminatory or harassing practice that deviate from this policy.

**Supersedes:** Sexual Harassment dated September 11, 1998