

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Title: Temple University Policy on Sexual Harassment
Policy Number: 04.82.01
Effective Date: September 10, 1992
Issuing Authority: Office of the President

Policy

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Temple University is committed to providing a learning and working environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community, free from discriminatory conduct. Sexual harassment in any form or context is inimical to this and will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment subverts the mission and the work of the University, and can threaten the career, educational experience, and well-being of student, faculty, and staff.

The University recognizes that sexual harassment may occur regardless of the formal position or status of each person involved. Sexual harassment is especially offensive, however, when it occurs in relationships between teacher and student or between supervisor and subordinate. In those situations, sexual harassment exploits unfairly the power inherent in the position of the faculty member or supervisor.

This policy also reflects the University's commitment to educate, counsel, and train all of the members of the University community about the nature of sexual harassment, its impact on individuals and the University community as a whole, and the steps necessary to combat it.

Sexual harassment also constitutes a form of sex discrimination which is illegal under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Elementary/Secondary Education Act of 1972, and state law. In addition to any sanctions that may be imposed by the University for violation of this policy, a person who sexually harasses another person may be held personally liable to the victim and be subject to sanctions independent of those imposed by the University.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

A. PROHIBITIONS

1. In general

Temple University is committed to the maintenance of a community free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated in any

context at Temple University, whether it be in a faculty/student, faculty/faculty, supervisor/employee, staff/student, student/student, worker/co-worker, or other relationship. All members of the University community have a responsibility to insure that the University is free from all forms of sexual harassment.

For all individuals who are part of the Temple community, sexually harassing conduct that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive as to substantially disrupt or undermine a person's ability to participate in or to receive the benefits, services, or opportunities of the University is prohibited, including the following: unwelcome sexual advances requests for sexual favors, and other harassing conduct or physical contact of a sexual or gender-motivated nature, when:

- a. submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or status in a course, program, or activity; or
 - b. submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for an employment-related, educational, or other decision affecting an individual; or
 - c. such conduct substantially interferes with an individual's work, educational performance, or equal access to the University's resources and opportunities; or
 - d. such conduct creates an intimidating, hostile, or abusive work or educational environment.
2. Conduct between students and faculty, instructors, advisors, athletic coaches, and others.
- a. With reference to behavior between an instructor and students of that instructor, no instructor shall make a sexually suggestive or intimidating remark, ask a student for a date or sexual favor, or in other ways make a sexual advance to the student. While a student is a student of a particular instructor, any sort of sexual or romantic advances or relationship between the student and the particular instructor is prohibited.
 - b. A student is a student of a particular instructor:
 - (i) when a student is registered in a course taught by the instructor and has not yet received a final grade; or
 - (ii) when a student is assigned to be advised by a particular instructor, whether the instructor is serving as an undergraduate adviser, graduate adviser, or member of a thesis or dissertation committee; or
 - (iii) at other times when an instructor has a relationship with a student

such that a student's activities at the University are being supervised or evaluated by the instructor; or

(iv) at other times when an advisor, athletic coach, physician, laboratory operator or other similar individual has a relationship with a student such that the student's activities at the University are being supervised or evaluated by that person. The relationships covered by this paragraph include, but are not limited to, medical residents and physicians and student members of athletic teams and Athletic Department coaches.

c. There are, in addition, faculty/student relationships that are less clear because, although the faculty member does not have direct responsibility for the student, the faculty member may indirectly affect the student's academic evaluation or career opportunities. Such situations exist, for instance, when a faculty member serves on the fellowship committee in a graduate student's department. In such cases, careful adherence to the following ethical principles is required:

(i) an instructor must desist from expressions of sexual or romantic interest if there is any indication that such interest is unwelcome by the student;

(ii) no instructor may indicate, explicitly or implicitly, that an academic reward or punishment could result from the student's reaction to an instructor's sexual or romantic advances;

(iii) if a consensual sexual and/or romantic relationship develops between a student and instructor, the instructor should not thereafter take part in any activity that involves evaluation of the student's academic work or progress, without prior permission by the student's Dean for good cause shown.

3. Supervisory Conduct¹

Any person (a) who has power, either individually or collectively with others, to dispense or influence rewards or punishments regarding another person, (b) who evaluates the work performance of another person, or (c) to whom another person reports regarding work assignments, may not subject such other person to any unwelcome sexual conduct, such as an unwelcome sexual advance or request for sexual favor, irrespective of whether submission to such conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a basis for a decision affecting such person or whether such conduct creates a hostile environment.

¹ See also the University's policies on conflict of interest, which are available in the Office of Human Resources, the Office of the University Secretary and on the University's Policies and Procedures website at <http://policies.temple.edu/>.

B. EDUCATION

Educational efforts are essential to the establishment of a campus environment that is as free as possible from sexual harassment. Education has at least three goals: (a) ensuring that all persons are aware of their rights and responsibilities in the University community; (b) advising members of the University community of unacceptable behavior; and (c) informing all persons about the available mechanisms to address complaints of violations of this policy.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs in conjunction with the Human Resources Department is responsible for disseminating information and presenting education and training sessions about sexual harassment to insure that all members of the University community are aware of sexual harassment in all its forms, the University's policy prohibiting sexual harassment and the procedures available to enforce this policy, as well as the identities of the Ombudspersons and the support groups available to help victims of sexual harassment. The Office of Multicultural Affairs will consult with the Provost's Office, the Office of the Chairman and CEO Temple University Health System, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, and the Office of the Executive Vice President in designing and carrying out these educational efforts.

A training session on the University's sexual harassment policy will be included in the orientation required of all new students, faculty and other employees. Follow-up educational efforts, and information and training sessions for all members of the University community, will be undertaken with such frequency and in such a manner as to carry out the purposes of this policy.

C. COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

The informal and formal complaint procedures set forth below are internal administrative procedures of the University. As to those forms of sexual harassment that also violate state or federal law, an aggrieved party may also file a complaint with the appropriate local, state, or federal agency or in a court with jurisdiction.

These informal and formal complaint procedures are supplemental to, and are not intended to displace, other disciplinary procedures set forth in any applicable collective bargaining agreement and in the rules and regulations of the Faculty Senate.

1. Informal Resolution Procedures

Informal complaints may be oral or written. In many instances, informal discussion, counseling, and mediation can be useful in resolving perceived instances of sexual harassment. Problems are sometimes easier to resolve when an informal atmosphere encourages people to identify the difficulty, talk it out, and agree on how to deal with it.²

² Persons who receive an informal complaint of sexual harassment should advise the complaining party that they may make their complaint to an Ombudsperson pursuant to this policy.

Use of the informal procedures set forth below is not a prerequisite to initiating a formal complaint. Informal complaint resolution does not involve disciplinary proceedings against the alleged harasser.

a. Whom to Contact

Any person who believes that he or she is a victim of sexual harassment may make an informal complaint to any Sexual Harassment Ombudsperson.

b. Ombudsperson's Role and Responsibilities

Sexual Harassment Ombudspersons shall be designated annually by the Executive Vice President; the Provost; the Chairman and CEO Temple University Health System; and the Vice President for Student Affairs, and shall be knowledgeable about sexual harassment matters and trained to assist in understanding and resolving such matters. Ombudspersons should be sensitive to the feelings, rights, and interests of all parties, and have demonstrated ability to handle confidential and sensitive matters in a discreet manner. A sufficient number of Ombudspersons should be designated each year to afford reasonable access to them at all University campuses. A listing of Sexual Harassment Ombudspersons should be published widely at least twice a year.

The Ombudsperson will treat an informal complaint as confidential, as specified below.

The Ombudsperson will advise the complaining individual about support services available at the University, and the availability of both formal and informal complaint resolution procedures.

If requested by the complaining party, the Ombudsperson will assist in attempting to resolve the complaint informally. Such assistance may involve, for example, advising the complainant in writing a letter to that person asking that the behavior stop. Alternatively, the complainant may ask the Ombudsperson to meet with the alleged harasser, or explore other possible resolutions. The Ombudsperson may enlist the help of other University personnel, such as department chairs, deans, or administrators in resolving an informal complaint.

2. Confidentiality

During informal resolution, all reasonable efforts will be made to insure the confidentiality of information received, including the identities of the parties. The identity of the complaining party will be disclosed to the accused during the informal resolution process only if the complaining party gives permission. If, due to the circumstances of the alleged harassment, it is not possible to conduct a review of or resolve the complaint and yet maintain confidentiality, the complaining party will be informed and be given the options of proceeding (with disclosure of identity) or

withdrawing from the informal resolution process.

Anyone with an inquiry or informal complaint may bring another member of the University community to discussions with the designated Ombudsperson, as long as that person agrees to be bound by the confidentiality provisions of this policy.

3. Formal Complaint Resolution

a. Filing of Complaint

Members of the University community who believe that they are victims of sexual harassment may bring a formal administrative complaint of sexual harassment by filing a written complaint directly with the University's Office of Multicultural Affairs. A person is not required to utilize informal resolution procedures before filing a formal complaint.

b. Investigation

The Office of Multicultural Affairs will be responsible for conducting a prompt investigation of a formal complaint. The purpose of the investigation is to establish whether there is a reasonable basis for believing that a violation of this policy has occurred. The investigation may entail interviews of the complainant, the accused, and other persons believed to have pertinent factual knowledge. During such investigations, every reasonable effort will be made to protect the privacy rights of all parties, but confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

c. Opportunity To Be Heard

The investigation will afford the accused an opportunity to examine and respond to the allegations. The accused will be informed of the identity of the complainant, unless the alleged harassment occurred in public and the accused would have a fair opportunity to respond to the allegations without such disclosure.

d. Determination

Possible outcomes of the investigation by the Office of Multicultural Affairs are: (a) a judgment that the allegations are not warranted, (b) a negotiated resolution of the complaint, or (c) a judgment that there is a reasonable basis for believing that a violation of this policy has occurred.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs will inform the parties promptly, in writing, about the outcome of the investigation.

e. Formal Disciplinary Proceedings

- (i) Alleged violations of this policy by persons other than full-time faculty

If the result of the investigation by the Office of Multicultural Affairs is a determination that there is a reasonable basis for believing that a alleged violation of this policy has occurred and a negotiated settlement cannot be reached, then the appropriate University officer will initiate formal disciplinary action as follows:

- (a) for alleged violations of this policy by non-union employees, the University officer responsible for the unit employing the accused will initiate disciplinary procedures;
- (b) for alleged violations of this policy by union staff members, the Associate Vice President for Human Resources will initiate disciplinary procedures in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement;
- (c) for alleged violations of this policy by students, the Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee) will initiate disciplinary procedures applicable to charges of misconduct under the Student Code of Conduct;
- (d) for alleged violations of this policy by graduate assistants or other instructional personnel, the Provost (or designee) will initiate disciplinary procedures; and
- (e) for any other alleged violations of this policy, the President (or designee) will initiate appropriate disciplinary procedures.
- (ii) Alleged violations of this policy by a member of the full-time faculty

Alleged violations of this policy by a member of the full-time faculty will be governed by the disciplinary procedures applicable to faculty in the Faculty Handbook and in the Temple / TAUP collective bargaining agreement for faculty in that bargaining unit. Without limiting the right of any person to initiate disciplinary action at any time as set forth in those documents, the Provost (or designee) shall initiate formal disciplinary procedures against a faculty member for a violation of this policy when the result of an investigation by the Office of Multicultural Affairs is a determination that there is a reasonable basis for believing that a violation of this policy has occurred and that a negotiated settlement cannot be reached. When such a case is referred to the Faculty Senate Personnel

Committee, the investigation completed by the Office of Multicultural Affairs may be considered as equivalent to the college-level review that normally precedes a review by the Personnel Committee.

D. SANCTIONS

Any member of the University community who engages in sexual harassment or other conduct in violation of this policy is subject to the full range of disciplinary action, up to and including separation from the University.

Threats, other forms of intimidation, and retaliation in any form against any member of the University community who exercises his or her right to initiate a complaint or inquiry in good faith under this policy is strictly prohibited, and will itself be cause for appropriate disciplinary action.

Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:

Adopted by the President on September 10, 1992. Amended on February 22, 1994, September 14, 1999, and January 15, 2007.

2. History:

This policy was formerly designated as Presidential Policy Statement No. I-26.

3. Cross References

Presidential Policy #04.82.02, Temple University Policy on Sexual Assault

Board of Trustees Policy #04.81.01, Ratification of Nondiscrimination Policy

Board of Trustees Policy #04.81.02, Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

Board of Trustees Policy #04.81.03, Ethnic Intimidation Policy

Presidential Policy #[I-6], Reaffirmation of Equal Employment Opportunities

Presidential Policy #[I-22], Nondiscrimination in Employment

Temple University Affirmative Action Plan

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