

Section O

Element No. 15

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**GOOD FAITH EFFORTS**

Sec. 46a-68-92

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## Good Faith Efforts

Under Section 46a-68-92(a) of the Affirmative Action Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, the University has demonstrated good faith efforts when it engaged in the initiatives articulated in subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section:

The University has promoted equal opportunity to achieve a workplace that is free of discrimination with the following initiatives:

- 1) Communicate the University's commitment to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action to all employees. All University employees received a notice advising them of the Affirmative Action Plan and the opportunity to review it. University employees were notified of the University's commitment to affirmative action and equal employment opportunity. The Affirmative Action Plan is available in the following locations: (1) President's Office; (2) Human Resources Department; (3) The Office of Diversity and Equity; (4) The Offices of the Vice Presidents; and (5) Library Administration. All search committees are required to attend a search charge meeting where AA/EEO, Diversity and Inclusion are addressed. This is referenced in the Internal Communication Section.
- 2) Ensure that employees are aware of nondiscrimination policies and procedures; post policies in visible areas. University employees receive an annual letter notifying them of the nondiscrimination policies at the University and through the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU). All policies related to Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity, cultural diversity and Title IX are posted on bulletin boards in Human Resources Department, Office of Diversity and Equity, the Divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.
- 3) Ensure that departmental processes, procedures and systems are nondiscriminatory and free of bias. All University and CSCU policies and procedures are continually reviewed by the University administration and distributed annually. Employees are also provided information about mandatory Title IX/Sexual Harassment, Cultural Diversity, and other related training programs, processes, procedures and systems.
- 4) Evaluate supervisors for making good faith efforts in equal employment opportunity and affirmative action; document in performance appraisals. Supervisors and managers at the University are evaluated on diversity, affirmative action and equal employment opportunity which are included in the performance appraisals process.
- 5) The University ensure that reasonable accommodations are made for disabled employees. Reasonable accommodations are provided to assist employees to perform the essential functions of the job.
- 6) The University takes appropriate and timely action when there has been as allegation of sexual harassment. Employees are provided copies of the Discrimination Complaint (Grievance) Procedure annually and all complaints related to sexual harassment are resolved within the required ninety (90) day timeframe. The Grievance Procedure is posted on the University Website at <http://www.wcsu.edu/diversity/grievance.asp> and the Board of Regents for Higher Education also has a Grievance Procedure posted on the CSCU website at <http://www.ct.edu/files/pdfs/policy-Discrimination-Complaint-Procedure.pdf>.
- 7) The University provides training to employees to enhance their knowledge of non-discrimination. Employees are provided training on Diversity, Sexual Harassment, Title IX, ADA and Ethics

training. Additional training is also provided on-line. The University CaRRT (Campus Response and Resource Team) also attended training related to Title IX and nondiscrimination. The University continues to provide education and training opportunities related to Affirmative Action /EEO, diversity and inclusion.

(b) The University has developed recruitment strategies that ensure opportunities for all qualified applicants, including underutilized groups with the following:

- 1) Identify affirmative action placement goals for all job openings. Each Search Committee is provided a copy of the job announcement describing the position requirements and the affirmative action goal established for the position. They are also provided information about the University's commitment to affirmative action and equal employment opportunity and diversifying of the workforce to match the student population. Recruitment strategies are developed for the type of position and position requirements to ensure opportunities are available to all qualified applicants. The University maintains and secures ongoing relationships and develops additional recruitment sources while cultivating recruitment programs as required by the regulations.
- 2) Make efforts to attract a large and diverse pool of qualified applicants, particularly inclusive of groups associated with affirmative action recruitment goals. The University attracts a large and diverse pool of qualified applicants for all positions because of the efforts made to use recruitment resources that attract the most qualified to fill the position being recruited for.
- 3) Develop a contingency strategy if the initial recruitment effort does not bring in a sufficiently diverse pool. The University seems to have diverse pools of qualified applicants for most positions. If the recruitment process failed to have enough diverse applicants, the University would extend the search and contact more diverse recruitment resources that would attract more qualified applicants from a diverse pool.
- 4) Contacting special interest organizations, groups and individuals. Most University searches are for positions that are typical to an academic environment, but the University will reach out to special interest organizations, groups and individuals for specialized recruitment efforts or to attract a specific type of candidate with highly specialized skills and experience.
- 5) Or other means of outreach utilized to hire goal candidates. The University continues to conduct outreach initiatives for highly specialized recruitments and uses all types of good faith outreach efforts to diverse recruitment resources to hire goal candidates.

(c) The University has ensured a fair and nondiscriminatory selection process by:

- 1) Review the selection process to ensure that it treats each applicant and consistently. The Chief Diversity Officer and either the Chief Human Resources Officer (or a member of the Human Resources Department) will meet with members of the search committees for full time and part time positions. The hiring, interviewing and selection process is explained and questions are answered to assure the search committee members follow a fair and consistent selection process.
- 2) Review the interview format and questions for possible bias. The Chief Diversity Officer reviews all interview questions and interview format(s) for approval before they are used in the interview process.
- 3) Ensure that reasonable accommodations are made for all applicants. The University works with all applicants when scheduling interviews to assure reasonable accommodations are provided. If any

applicant requires assistance with applying for a University opportunity, the Human Resources Staff would work with the Office of Diversity and Equity to provide appropriate services, technology and assistance to apply for positions. During the reporting period, the reasonable accommodations given to applicant are: [include the various requests through the Office of Diversity and Equity].

- 4) When using group interview process diverse selection panels are created to provide the best approach to experience, insight, University and Department perspective. The University uses diverse selection panels for all full time and part time positions. The diversity of the search committee also highlights the commitment to hiring candidates from underutilized groups to provide role models to students of all cultures.
  - 5) Assess all applicants using the same selection criteria. The Chief Diversity Officer and the Chief Human Resources Officer will also highlight the requirement that all applicants have to be reviewed equally, fairly and consistently and all of the documentation throughout the selection process. The importance that the same questions have to be asked of all applicants is also detailed in the search charge meetings throughout the reposting period.
  - 6) The University consider all skills that qualify the applicant, including volunteer and professional experience. All search committee members consider volunteer and professional experience when evaluating the experience and training that the applicants have when they apply for positions.
  - 7) Interviewing as many applicants as possible to increase opportunity is a continuous process of the selection process. The Chief Diversity Officer and either the Chief Human Resources Officer (or a member of the Human Resources Department) will actively monitor the search and interview process. The University continuously attracts large applicant pools for all of the positions.
  - 8) The Chief Diversity Officer maintains written records of all applicants interviewed and that the information recorded relates to the individual's ability to perform the duties. In all search committee meetings, documentation is emphasized and the evaluation of applicants based on their experience and training and also the skills and knowledge of the position requirements are factors they consider in the hiring process.
  - 9) The Chief Diversity Officer and either the Chief Human Resources Officer (or a member of the Human Resources Department) participates in the education and impact/liability of common biases such as stereotyping, unsubstantiated first impressions that may influence a decision, and assessments based on different "comfort level" with people from dissimilar groups.
  - 10) The Chief Diversity Officer ensures that documenting the selection process is executed fully and retaining all records is also explained to each search committee member to assure that all documentation on all applicants is maintained through the hiring and selection process. The search committee members are also told about the Freedom of Information Act and that all applicants have the right to file a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, if they feel that they were not treated fairly during the interview and the selection process.
- (d) The University has provided career development opportunities to all interested and qualified employees, with emphasis on those groups found to be underutilized in the workforce by:
- 1) The University encourages all staff to participate on University committees to enhance development. Participation in University committee's is encouraged and employees chair and participate in a large variety of committee meetings. The President also participates in a number

of University wide committees and attends many meetings throughout the reporting period. Employees represent diversity in many ways by race, culture, gender, work title and full time and part time status. Students are also encouraged to participate in University Committees.

- 2) The Human Resources Department will inform all staff of internal staff development and promotional opportunities. The Human Resources Department will distribute information about promotional opportunities that occur throughout the reporting period. The HR Department provides information about training and staff development opportunities.
- 3) Either (or both) the Office of Diversity and Equity and/or the Human Resources Department will promote and support training and development for all employees. As an academic environment, all types of training are provided to staff, faculty and students on a weekly basis throughout the academic year by the University. The President, leadership team, supervisors and managers promote and support staff to attend training and professional development opportunities that occur throughout the reporting period.
- 4) Either (or both) the Office of Diversity and Equity and/or the Human Resources Department will promote and provide career counseling sessions (as reported in the *Career Mobility section, under Section 46a-68-91(a) and (b)*) through the reporting period. The Chief Diversity Officer and either the Chief Human Resources Officer (or a member of the Human Resources Department) will provide career counseling sessions with employees and discuss educational, promotional opportunities and opportunities within the CSCU. Each office (and representative) assist with the review of the employee's resumes, resume writing and interviewing tips are also provided.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to absolve the University of its obligations under sections 46a-68-78, 46a-68-79, 46a-68-80, 46a-68-81, 46a-68, 85, 46a-68-87, 46a-68-89 and 46a-68-90 and 46a-68-92 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.