

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

*(Section 46a-68-78)*

March 2024

This section was in compliance in the previous filing, and there were no proposals or recommendations.

The Policy Statement on Affirmative Action is signed and dated by the appointing authority and included in this section of the *Plan*.

### **Subsection (a)**

The University of Connecticut's Policy Statement on Affirmative Action & Equal Employment Opportunity:

- identifies the purpose and need for affirmative action and equal employment opportunity;
- identifies the classes protected under all federal and state constitutions, laws, regulations, and executive orders that prohibit or outlaw discrimination;
- establishes affirmative action as an immediate and necessary agency objective;
- pledges the agency to take affirmative steps to provide services and programs in a fair and impartial manner;
- recognizes the hiring difficulties experienced by individuals with disabilities and by many older persons and sets program goals for action to overcome the present effects of past discrimination, if any, to achieve the full and fair utilization of such persons in the workforce;
- advises employees of the existence of the agency's internal complaint procedures; and
- identifies the agency equal employment opportunity officer or person assigned affirmative action duties by name, position or position classification, address and telephone number.

### **Subsection (b)**

The Policy Statement on Affirmative Action & Equal Employment Opportunity has been signed by President Dr. Radenka Maric and references her commitment to achieving goals set forth in the *Plan*.

March 25, 2024

## **Policy Statement: Affirmative Action & Equal Employment Opportunity**

### **Equal Employment Opportunity**

The University of Connecticut is an equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employer. In order to ensure that employees and job applicants are not subjected to unlawful discrimination, it is the University's policy to comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations that prohibit employment discrimination and mandate specific actions for the purpose of eliminating the present effects of past discrimination. Equal employment opportunity is the purpose and goal of affirmative action. The University has established equal employment opportunity and affirmative action as immediate and necessary objectives because we are committed to its concepts, principles and goals.

At the University equal employment opportunity (EEO) means nondiscrimination in employment policies and practices. The University is committed to ensuring that individual employees and applicants are not excluded from participation in the employment process based on an individual's legally protected status which includes race, color, ethnicity, religious creed, age, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), marital status, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, genetic information, physical or mental disabilities (including learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, past/present history of a mental disorder), prior conviction of a crime (or similar characteristic), veteran status, status as a victim of domestic violence, workplace hazards to reproductive systems, gender identity or expression, or other factors which cannot lawfully be the basis for employment actions, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification.

Affirmative action is a positive program of purposeful activity undertaken with conviction and effort to overcome the present effects of past practices, policies and barriers to equal employment opportunity. Affirmative action plans and programs are designed to achieve the full and fair participation of all protected class members found to be underutilized in the workforce or adversely affected by past policies and practices.

### **Affirmative Action**

Affirmative action plays a role at all stages of the employment process, including, but not limited to: recruitment, evaluation, interview, selection, hire, promotion, demotion, transfer, discipline, layoff, termination, benefits, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, selection for training, the use of all facilities, and participation in all University sponsored employee activities. Provisions in applicable laws providing for bona fide occupational qualifications, business necessity or age limitations will be adhered to by the University where appropriate. Accordingly, the University pledges to regularly reexamine all

policies and procedures to identify and eliminate barriers to access, and to change practices that may have a discriminatory impact.

The University's commitment to affirmative action requires that we make the good faith efforts that may be necessary in all aspects of personnel administration to ensure that the recruitment and hire of underrepresented individuals reflect their availability in the job market; that the causes of underutilization are identified and eliminated; that alternative approaches are explored when personnel practices have a negative impact on protected classes; and that the terms, conditions, and privileges of employment, including upward and lateral mobility, are equitably administered.

The University recognizes the employment difficulties experienced by individuals with disabilities and by many older persons. Therefore, the University will take necessary steps to identify and overcome areas of underutilization of such persons in the workforce and to achieve their full participation in all University programs, processes and services.

The University is committed to ensuring that all services and programs are provided in a fair and impartial manner and thus has established affirmative action and equal employment opportunity as immediate and necessary agency objectives.

As a Connecticut state agency, the University prepares its *Affirmative Action Plan* each year. The *Plan* is a detailed, results-oriented set of procedures, which blueprints a strategy to combat discrimination and implement affirmative action. The objectives of the *Plan* are to set both quantitative and non-quantitative goals, which promote affirmative action and/or eliminate any policy or employment practice that adversely affects protected class members.

A complete version of the University's current *Affirmative Action Plan* is available at the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) and may also be found [online](#) on the OIE website.

**Procedure:**

For more information and advice regarding rights and responsibilities under the *Plan*, the University's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer can be contacted by telephone, email or in person during regular office hours. All comments are welcome.

**Letissa Reid, J.D.**

Associate Vice President, Office of Institutional Equity  
Equal Employment Opportunity Officer  
Wood Hall, Unit 4175,  
241 Glenbrook Road  
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-4175  
Letissa.reid@uconn.edu  
860-486-2943.

The University's [policies against discrimination and harassment](#) are included in the *Plan* along with [complaint procedures](#). Employees and others wishing to file complaints of discrimination or of affirmative action policy violations may do so by contacting the Office of Institutional Equity by telephone, email or in person during regular office hours:

Office of Institutional Equity  
Wood Hall, First Floor  
241 Glenbrook Road  
Storrs, Connecticut 06279  
860-486-2943  
[equity@uconn.edu](mailto:equity@uconn.edu)  
[www.equity.uconn.edu](http://www.equity.uconn.edu)

Employees and others shall not be subjected to harassment, intimidation or any type of retaliation because they have (1) filed a complaint; (2) assisted or participated in an investigation, compliance review, hearing or any other activity related to the administration of any federal, state or local law requiring equal employment opportunity; (3) opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any federal, state or local law requiring equal opportunity; (4) exercised any other legal right protected by federal, state or local law requiring equal opportunity.

**Accountability:**

As President, I commit the University and myself to make every effort to implement an effective *Affirmative Action Plan* within timetables set forth in the *Plan*. I fully expect my managerial and supervisory staff to treat compliance with Federal and State of Connecticut affirmative action statutes as a top priority and take positive steps to ensure the successful implementation of the policies, procedures and objectives of affirmative action and equal opportunity at the University.

In issuing the University's affirmative action policy, I reiterate the need for affirmative action and attest to the University's determination to identify strengths and weaknesses in our employment system, resolve problems when they appear, recruit employees vigorously and affirmatively, and retain current employees while also helping them prepare for advancement.

3.25.24

Date



Dr. Radenka Maric

President, University of Connecticut