



## Human Resource Services

# Sexual Harassment Unlawful Discrimination

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge receipt of the following policies,  
(Please Print)  
procedures and forms:

- Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedure
- Sexual Harassment Complaint Form
- Unlawful Discrimination Policy and Procedure
- Unlawful Discrimination Complaint Form

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Palomar Community College District

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

### I. Statement of Policy

#### A. Introduction

It is the policy of the Palomar Community College District, in keeping with efforts to establish and maintain an environment in which the dignity and worth of all members of the college community are respected, that sexual harassment of students and employees is unacceptable conduct and will not be tolerated.

This Policy applies to the unlawful harassment of any student on the basis of sex by any employee of the District including, but not limited to, classroom conditions, grades, academic standing, scholarships, recommendations, employment opportunities, disciplinary action, or any other aspect of college life within the control of the District or its employees.

This Policy also applies to the unlawful sexual harassment of any employee with respect to all terms and conditions of employment with the District, including but not limited to hiring, placement, evaluation, promotion, disciplinary action, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, training opportunities, compensation, work assignments, and hours of work, shifts, or workload.

Employees who violate this Policy may be subject to corrective measures and to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Students who violate this Policy may be subject to corrective measures, including discipline, up to and including expulsion.

#### B. Dissemination of Policy

This Policy shall be posted in prominent locations on the college campuses and in the District Office, incorporated into orientation materials for new students, and for new and current faculty and staff. Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Human Resources and Affirmative Action.

#### C. Definitions

1. **Sexual harassment** is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It occurs when:
  - a. Submission to the conduct is procured by force, threat, intimidation, trick or surprise, or is made a term or condition of an individual's employment, or status as a student;
  - b. Submission to the conduct or rejection or avoidance of the conduct by an individual in the making of employment or academic decisions regarding that individual is used as a basis for a positive or adverse decision or one which maintains the status quo;
  - c. The conduct is intended to and/or does interfere with or have a negative effect on

the individual's work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment; or

d. The conduct takes place in the presence of another, or others, between people of the same or different gender and fits one of the above definitions.

## 2 **Forms of Sexual Harassment**

a. "Quid pro quo" sexual harassment occurs when a person in a position to effectively recommend, grant, deny, or adversely effect the terms or conditions of employment or a student's status, educational, or career opportunities, offers or suggests that such effects are conditional on an individual's willingness to engage in or tolerate the unwelcome sexual conduct.

b. "Hostile environment" sexual harassment occurs when the unwelcome sexual conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of an individual's learning or work environment, unreasonably interfere with an individual's academic or work performance, or create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive learning or work environment.

### **D. Examples of Prohibited Sexual Harassment**

1. **Verbal harassment** – Includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome derogatory comments, remarks, slurs, jokes or innuendo based on sex or of a sexual nature and may include, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual comments, obscenities or innuendo regarding an individual's body, physical appearance, attire, sexual prowess, marital status or sexual orientation; unwelcome or repeated flirting, or proposals to meet, date, or engage in conversations which include the verbal statements defined above; demands for sexual favors, or verbal abuse, threats or intimidation of a sexual nature; or patronizing or ridiculing statements which convey derogatory attitudes toward or are demeaning to a particular gender.
2. **Physical harassment** - Includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome and offensive touching, assault, impeding or blocking free movement, attempting to kiss or kissing, patting, stroking, grabbing, or invading the space of another; pinching, leering, unnecessarily brushing against, whistling or making sexual signs or gestures toward or in the presence of another.
3. **Visual harassment** - Includes, but is not limited to, the display or circulation of sexually derogatory, demeaning, or offensive posters, pictures, cards, cartoons, graffiti, drawings, or gestures; or reading sexually derogatory materials, computer graphics or electronic media transmission.
4. **Solicitation of sexual favors** - Includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, demands, suggestions or requests for sexual acts or favors.

### **E. Complaints of Sexual Harassment**

Complaints of sexual harassment filed by students or employees will be investigated and resolved in accordance with the Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure set forth in Section II herein. If the investigation results in a determination that disciplinary action or corrective

measures are necessary or appropriate, the District, in its sole discretion, may impose such action or measures in accordance with law which may include, but is/are not limited to, warning, reprimand, suspension without pay, dismissal or any other preventive or corrective measure deemed appropriate by the District.

#### **F. District Responsible Officer**

The District Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Human Resources and Affirmative Action is the District Responsible Officer ("Responsible Officer") who is responsible for receiving complaints of sexual harassment, coordinating the timely investigation and resolution of such complaints in accordance with this Policy, and assuring compliance with all state and federal complaint procedures and reporting requirements. The Responsible Officer shall take steps to assure the confidentiality of complaints, and that access to complaint and investigative information is confined to those individuals and entities with a need to know, or where the information is otherwise permitted or required to be released in accordance with law.

#### **G. Sexual Harassment Complaint Investigators**

The District Responsible Officer and/or designee(s) shall investigate singularly or in a team only those complaints which are not resolved at the informal complaint level and which, additionally, do not identify as the harasser a supervisor or administrator in a position superior to that of any designated investigator(s). Where appropriate, the Responsible Officer may recommend that the Governing Board appoint another person or organization not employed by the District to conduct the investigation under contract with the District. Neither the Responsible Officer nor any investigator will be appointed to investigate any complaint in which the officer or investigator is named as a percipient witness, is accused in the complaint of sexual harassment or retaliation, as defined above, or is otherwise implicated by the allegations in the complaint.

### **II. Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedure**

#### **A. Introduction**

##### **1. Applicability**

This procedure applies to students, employees and applicants for employment who, either allege that they have personally suffered sexual harassment discrimination or retaliation, or to an individual who learned of the alleged conduct in his or her official capacity. Any oral or written complaint of sexual harassment discrimination or retaliation must be made to one of the individuals identified in paragraph B below within one year of the date of the alleged harassment or retaliation, or within one year of the date on which the Complainant knew or should have known of the facts underlying the alleged unlawful discrimination.

##### **2. Definitions**

**Complainant:** A student, employee or applicant for employment who believes that they have been personally sexually harassed, or an individual who learned of it in his or her official capacity.

**Respondent:** The individual who allegedly sexually harassed or took reprisals upon the Complainant, or an individual who participated in the complaint procedure.

**Complaint:** A written statement which contains as much detail as possible as to the circumstances surrounding the alleged harassment including date(s), time(s), description of incident(s), witnesses and the desired remedy.

**Informal Complaint:** An unwritten complaint, which the Complainant has verbally provided to a District supervisor or management employee and which contains the information described in the Complaint definition above.

**Days:** Days, as used in this Policy, mean days in which the District Office is open for business.

## **B. Reporting Unwelcome Conduct**

Sexual harassment is unlawful only when it is conduct which is not solicited, welcome or voluntarily engaged in or participated in. Therefore, where possible or practicable, an individual who believes that such unwelcome conduct constitutes sexual harassment should clearly inform the perpetrator that such conduct is not wanted, not appropriate and should cease. Where it is not possible or practicable to do so, or if the harassment continues after clear notice to the alleged harasser that the conduct is unwelcome, employees, applicants and students should take the action set forth below.

**Employees** should immediately inform their supervisor or the Responsible Officer. If it is not practicable to inform the immediate supervisor, or that individual is the alleged harasser, employees shall promptly report any charges of discrimination to the next higher level supervisor or the Responsible Officer. Immediate supervisors who learn of such a complaint shall immediately report it to the Responsible Officer or President as appropriate. All charges shall be reported to the District Responsible Officer.

**Students** should immediately report any allegations of sexual harassment to the Director of Student Activities, the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Student Services or, if not available, to the Responsible Officer. Any such report shall be promptly reported to the Responsible Officer. Any District employee to whom an oral or written harassment complaint is reported shall immediately notify the Responsible Officer.

## **C. Informal Complaint Procedure**

Upon the receipt of notice of the filing of a timely, within one (1) year of the date of the alleged harassment or retaliation, written or oral harassment complaint, the District Responsible Officer shall:

1. Clarify the specific nature of the allegations whether written or oral, and attempt to informally resolve the complaint.
2. Advise the individual that he or she need not participate in any informal efforts to resolve the complaint, and that he or she may file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), or the Chancellor for Community College Districts.
3. Take appropriate action to assist in preventing conduct by the alleged harasser or others which may constitute or appear to constitute reprisal for filing the complaint.

4. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of the complaint, provide a copy of this Policy to both the Respondent and the Complainant; provide to the Respondent written notice of the substance of the allegations of the complaint where oral, a copy of the complaint where written, and request that the Respondent provide a written response to the written complaint or to the summary of the allegations provided within ten (10) days. Failure or refusal of the individual making the complaint to provide requested information regarding the allegations, other facts or circumstances surrounding the charges, or necessary for the continued processing of the complaint, or to cooperate in the complaint procedure shall result in dismissal of the complaint without investigation or any further action.
5. Within ten (10) days of receipt of the statement of the Respondent, or if no statement is submitted within ten (10) days of the notice to the Respondent in paragraph 4 above, the Responsible Officer shall provide the Respondent the opportunity to discuss the allegations of the complaint and any possible resolution of them. If within the above ten (10) day period no statement is submitted, the Responsible Officer shall review what information is available to determine whether the allegations are sufficiently serious to warrant the initiation of a formal complaint.
6. If the matter is resolved, the Responsible Officer will put the agreed upon resolution in writing and shall meet individually with both parties who will review and sign an agreement which shall include the specific nature of the allegations and all of the terms of the resolution.
7. If the parties agree that there has been no sexual harassment and are satisfied with the resolution, the written agreement shall state these facts, and that the parties agree. The documents and the original of the agreement shall be retained by the Responsible Officer for a period of three (3) years, after which time the documents and the agreement will be shredded. The documents and the agreement will not be filed in the personnel files of either party.
8. If the parties agree that sexual harassment has occurred, but are satisfied with the resolution, then the agreement, specifically describing the conduct alleged, the resolution and the complaint shall be placed in a sealed envelope in the personnel file of the Respondent marked to the effect that it may be opened only at the direction of the President, or if otherwise required by law.
9. If the Complainant is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, or if the Responsible Officer determines that an informal resolution either cannot be reached or cannot be reached within thirty (30) days of the submission of the complaint at the informal level, the Responsible Officer will provide written notice of that determination to the parties and of the Complainant's right to file a formal complaint with the Responsible Officer under this Policy and/or with any federal or state enforcement agency such as the Office of Civil Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.
10. Even if the Complainant is satisfied with the resolution of the complaint, or agrees that no sexual harassment or retaliation occurred, the Responsible Officer shall determine, subject to the approval of the President, whether the alleged conduct is of such a serious nature under all of the facts and circumstances that, if true, corrective action in addition to that agreed upon by the parties, if any, and/or disciplinary action would be appropriate. In such cases, the Responsible Officer will direct the formal investigation of the Complaint as

provided in paragraph D below, provide a copy of the report of the investigation to the Respondent for review, comment and submission of any statement or evidence not previously provided within the time required to submit a statement in response to documents to be placed in the personnel file. The Responsible Officer shall submit such report and statement to the President for appropriate disposition.

**D. Formal Complaint Procedure**

1. Except as provided in paragraph C 10 above, the Complainant shall initiate the formal complaint procedure by filing a complaint in writing after ~~either~~ completing the informal resolution process. A formal complaint form is attached as Exhibit A to this Policy.
2. Upon receipt of the formal complaint, the Responsible Officer, or trained designee, shall investigate the complaint. Any designated investigator is required to notify the Responsible Officer immediately when it comes to his/her attention that such member is a witness to allegations, or for any other reason may not be able to fairly or impartially investigate the allegations.
3. The Responsible Officer or designee will examine the complaint, and will interview the Respondent and the Complainant, with their consent, and any other witnesses deemed necessary to make a determination as to whether the conduct alleged occurred as stated in the complaint, or if not, what conduct did occur. If sexual harassment did occur, the Responsible Officer will determine the nature and seriousness of the conduct in light of all of the surrounding facts and circumstances. The above determinations and the bases for such determinations shall be included in a written report drafted or submitted to the Responsible Officer for review within eighty (80) days of the filing of the formal written complaint. The Responsible Officer shall review the report for sufficiency and, if found to be sufficient, will review the report with the appropriate site manager and President for recommended action.
4. Within ninety (90) days of receiving the formal written complaint, the Responsible Officer shall provide the Complainant with:
  - a) A copy of the report of the District's investigation or a summary of the investigation;
  - b) A written notice of the administrative decision setting forth the determination of the President, or his or her designee, as to whether sexual harassment did or did not occur with respect to each allegation in the complaint; a description of action taken, if any, to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future; the proposed resolution of the complaint; notice of the Complainant's right to submit a written appeal to the District Governing Board within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the report; and to submit an appeal to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. The results of the investigation and the determination as to whether harassment occurred shall also be reported to the Respondent and to the Respondent's supervisor. The Responsible Officer shall be responsible for preparing and submitting the above notice.

#### **E. Appeal to the Governing Board**

If the Complainant timely files a written appeal to the Governing Board, the Board shall review the original complaint, the investigation report, the administrative decision, and the appeal. The Governing Board shall issue a final decision within forty-five (45) days after receiving the appeal, or the administrative decision will become final automatically upon the expiration of the forty-five (45) day period. The Complainant and the Respondent shall be notified in writing of the Governing Board's decision, or that the administrative decision has become final by operation of law.

#### **F. Further Appeal**

Within thirty (30) days after the Governing Board issues its final decision or the administrative decision otherwise becomes final, the Complainant shall have the right to file a written appeal with the Chancellor of Community College Districts. If the complaint involves allegations of employment related discrimination, the Complainant may, at any time, also file a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission instead of, or in addition to, filing a petition for review with the Chancellor of Community College Districts within thirty (30) days after the Governing Board issues a final decision or permits the administrative decision to become final. Any complaint filed with the Chancellor of Community College Districts must be filed within one (1) year of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination or within one (1) year of the date on which the Complainant knew or should have known of the facts underlying the allegation of unlawful discrimination.

#### **G. Reports**

The District Responsible Officer shall make any required reports to the Chancellor of California Community College Districts.

March 10, 2000



## Palomar Community College District Sexual Harassment Complaint Form

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
[Please Print]

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: Employee \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of Complaint: [attach additional pages and provide as much detail as possible to include, date(s), time(s), place(s), and specific acts complained of, identity of witnesses.]

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Against whom is this complaint? \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name, Position, Location]

What relief are you seeking? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What steps have been taken to resolve the problem that caused this Complaint? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who else has been told about this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How, when, and where can you be reached? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted to \_\_\_\_\_  
[Name] [Title]

Dated Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received in Human Resource Services \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_

## **BOARD POLICY 3420 – UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION**

It is the policy of the Palomar Community College District to offer equal opportunity for all persons in all facets of the District's operations. Equal opportunity is offered to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to such matters including, but not limited to ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, political affiliation, veteran status, and protected union activities under EERA in any program or activity under California state or federal law or regulation. The District affirms its commitment to non-discrimination in recruitment, screening, testing, selection, hiring, compensation, employment benefits, promotion, educational opportunities access to programs, work assignments, application of discipline, layoffs, recalls, access to grievance procedures, terminations, and all other conditions of employment which are provided by District policy, regulation, rule, or practice. This policy is subject to the provisions of any collective bargaining agreement between the District and an employee bargaining agent.

The Superintendent/President shall establish administrative procedures to assure equal opportunity. It is the ongoing responsibility of the Governing Board, Superintendent/President, assistant superintendents/vice presidents, deans, directors, chairpersons, search committees, and other involved in employment decisions to comply with this policy.

Palomar College recognizes and appreciates the benefits of a diverse campus community and values the individual distinctions of its staff and students. In support of its goal to encourage students to examine their own and other heritages through multicultural and interdisciplinary programs, Palomar College seeks to provide positive role models for all students and recognizes that diversity in the academic and vocational environment fosters cultural awareness, mutual understanding and respect, harmony, and creativity.

The Superintendent/President shall establish administrative procedures that ensure all members of the college community can present complaints regarding alleged violations of this policy and have their complaints heard in accordance with the Title 5 regulations and those of other agencies that administer state and federal laws regarding nondiscrimination.

No District funds shall be used for membership, or for any participation involving financial payment or contribution on behalf of the District or any individual employed by or associated with it, to any private organization whose membership practices are discriminatory on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age,

sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability, or because he or she is perceived to have one or more of those characteristics.

In so providing, the Palomar Community College District hereby implements the provisions of California Government Code sections 11135 through 11139.5, the Sex Equity in Education Act (Ed. Code, § 66250 et seq.), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12100 et seq.) and the Age Discrimination Act (42 U.S.C. § 6101).

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59300; Gov. Code, §§ 11135-11139.5; Ed. Code, § 66250 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d; 20 U.S.C. § 1681; 29 U.S.C. § 794; 42 U.S.C. § 12100 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. § 6101.

GB 3-22-88, GB Rev. 12-12-89

Board Approved: December 10, 2002

## **UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

### **Introduction and Scope**

These are the written procedures for filing and processing complaints of unlawful discrimination in the Palomar Community College District. These procedures incorporate the legal principles contained in nondiscrimination provisions of the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, sections 59300 et seq. as well as other state and federal substantive and procedural requirements.

A copy of the written policy and procedures on unlawful discrimination are available in the Office of Human Resource Services.

These policies and procedures were adopted by the Palomar College Community College District Governing Board on December 10, 2002, in accordance with the procedures of the Board.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.; Ed. Code, §§ 66270, 66271.1, 66281.5; Gov. Code, § 11135-11139.5; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59326. Reference: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59300 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. § 106.8(b).

### **Definitions**

Definitions applicable to nondiscrimination policies are as follows:

- "Appeal" means a request by a complainant made in writing to the Palomar Community College District governing board pursuant to Title 5, section 59338, and/or to the State Chancellor's Office pursuant to Title 5, section 59339, to review the administrative determination of the District regarding a complaint of discrimination.
- "Complaint" means a written and signed statement meeting the requirements of Title 5, section 59328 that alleges unlawful discrimination in violation of the nondiscrimination regulations adopted by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, as set forth at Title 5, section 59300 et seq.
- "Days" means calendar days.
- "Mental disability" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
  - (1) Having any mental or psychological disorder or condition, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness,

or specific learning disabilities, that limits a major life activity. For purposes of this section:

- (A) "Limits" shall be determined without regard to mitigating measures, such as medications, assistive devices, or reasonable accommodations, unless the mitigating measure itself limits a major life activity.
  - (B) A mental or psychological disorder or condition limits a major life activity if it makes the achievement of the major life activity difficult.
  - (C) "Major life activities" shall be broadly construed and shall include physical, mental, and social activities and working.
- (2) Any other mental or psychological disorder or condition not described in paragraph (1) that requires specialized supportive services.
- (3) Having a record or history of a mental or psychological disorder or condition described in paragraph (1) or (2), which is known to the District.
- (4) Being regarded or treated by the District as having, or having had, any mental condition that makes achievement of a major life activity difficult.
- (5) Being regarded or treated by the District as having, or having had, a mental or psychological disorder or condition that has no present disabling effect, but that may become a mental disability as described in paragraph (1) or (2).
- "Mental disability" does not include sexual behavior disorders, compulsive gambling, kleptomania, pyromania, or psychoactive substance use disorders resulting from the current unlawful use of controlled substances or other drugs.
- "Physical disability" includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
  - (1) Having any physiological disease, disorder, condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss that does both of the following:
    - (A) Affects one or more of the following body systems: neurological, immunological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory, including speech organs, cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin, and endocrine.
    - (B) Limits a major life activity. For purposes of this section:

- (i) "Limits" shall be determined without regard to mitigating measures such as medications, assistive devices, prosthetics, or reasonable accommodations, unless the mitigating measure itself limits a major life activity.
  - (ii) A physiological disease, disorder, condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss limits a major life activity if it makes the achievement of the major life activity difficult.
  - (iii) "Major life activities" shall be broadly construed and includes physical, mental, and social activities and working.
- (2) Any other health impairment not described in paragraph (1) that requires specialized supportive services.
- (3) Having a record or history of a disease, disorder, condition, cosmetic disfigurement, anatomical loss, or health impairment described in paragraph (1) or (2), which is known to the District.
- (4) Being regarded or treated by the District as having, or having had, any physical condition that makes achievement of a major life activity difficult.
- (5) Being regarded or treated by the District as having, or having had, a disease, disorder, condition, cosmetic disfigurement, anatomical loss, or health impairment that has no present disabling effect but may become a physical disability as described in paragraph (1) or (2).
- (6) "Physical disability" does not include sexual behavior disorders, compulsive gambling, kleptomania, pyromania, or psychoactive substance use disorders resulting from the current unlawful use of controlled substances or other drugs.
- "District" means the Palomar Community College District or any District program or activity that is funded directly by the state or receives financial assistance from the state. This includes any other organization associated with the District or its educational centers that receives state funding or financial assistance through the District.
- "Responsible District Officer" means the officer identified by the District to the State Chancellor's Office as the person responsible for receiving complaints filed pursuant to Title 5, section 59328, and coordinating their investigation.

- “Sexual harassment” is unlawful discrimination in the form of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, made by someone from or in the workplace or in the educational setting, and includes but is not limited to:
  - (1) Making unsolicited written, verbal, physical, and/or visual contacts with sexual overtones. (Examples of possible sexual harassment that appear in a written form include, but are not limited to: suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations. Examples of possible verbal sexual harassment include, but are not limited to: leering, gestures, display of sexually aggressive objects or pictures, cartoons, or posters.)
  - (2) Continuing to express sexual interest after being informed that the interest is unwelcomed.
  - (3) Making reprisals, threats of reprisal, or implied threats of reprisal following a rebuff of harassing behavior. The following are examples of conduct in an academic environment that might be found to be sexual harassment: implying or actually withholding grades earned or deserved; suggesting a poor performance evaluation will be prepared; or suggesting a scholarship recommendation or college application will be denied.
  - (4) Engaging in explicit or implicit coercive sexual behavior within the work environment which is used to control, influence, or affect the employee’s career, salary, and/or work environment.
  - (5) Engaging in explicit or implicit coercive sexual behavior within the educational environment that is used to control, influence, or affect the educational opportunities, grades, and/or learning environment of a student.
  - (6) Offering favors or educational or employment benefits, such as grades or promotions, favorable performance evaluations, favorable assignments, favorable duties or shifts, recommendations, reclassifications, etc., in exchange for sexual favors.
- “Unlawful discrimination” means any complaint of unlawful discrimination based on a category protected under Title 5, section 59300, including sexual harassment and retaliation.

Authority: Gov. Code, § 12926; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59311; *Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, Title IX*, Office for Civil Rights, January 19, 2001.

## **Students and Employees Notice**

The Palomar Community College District's responsible officer shall make available to employees and students the District's unlawful discrimination policy and procedures. Faculty members, members of the administrative staff, and members of the classified service will be provided with a copy of the District's written policy on unlawful discrimination at the beginning of the first semester of the college year after the policy is adopted.

All District employees will receive a copy of the unlawful discrimination policies and procedures during the first year of their employment. In years in which a substantive policy or procedural change has occurred all District employees will receive a copy of the revised policies and/or procedures. A copy of the District's written policy on unlawful discrimination will be available to students in the Student Affairs Office.

Authority: Ed. Code, § 66281.5; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59324 and 59326.

Reference: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59300 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. § 106.8(b).

## **Retaliation**

It is unlawful for anyone to retaliate against someone who files an unlawful discrimination complaint, who refers a matter for investigation or complaint, who participates in an investigation of a complaint, who represents or serves as an advocate for an alleged victim or alleged offender, or who otherwise furthers the principles of this unlawful discrimination policy.

Authority: 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. § 106; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59300 et seq.; *Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, Title IX*, Office for Civil Rights, January 19, 2001

## **Responsible District Officer**

The Palomar Community College District has identified the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Human Resource Services, to the State Chancellor's Office and to the public as the single District officer responsible for receiving all unlawful discrimination complaints filed pursuant to Title 5, section 59328, and for coordinating their investigation. The actual investigation of complaints may be assigned to other staff or to outside persons or organizations under contract with the District. Such delegation procedures will be used whenever the officer designated to receive complaints is named in the complaint or is implicated by the allegations in the complaint.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59324; 34 C.F.R. § 106.8.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **Informal/Formal Complaint Procedure**

When a person brings charges of unlawful discrimination to the attention of the District's responsible officer, that officer will:

- (1) Undertake efforts to informally resolve the charges;
- (2) Advise the complainant that he or she need not participate in informal resolution;
- (3) Notify the person bringing the charges of his or her right to file a formal complaint and explain the procedure for doing so;
- (4) Assure the complainant that he or she will not be required to confront or work out problems with the person accused of unlawful discrimination;
- (5) Advise the complainant that he or she may file a nonemployment-based complaint with the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education (OCR) where such a complaint is within that agency's jurisdiction.
- (6) If the complaint is employment-related, the complainant should also be advised that he or she may file a complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and/or the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) where such a complaint is within that agency's jurisdiction.

Efforts at informal resolution need not include any investigation unless the responsible District officer determines that an investigation is warranted by the seriousness of the charges. Selecting an informal resolution does not extend the time limitations for filing a formal complaint. Efforts at informal resolution may continue after the filing of a formal written complaint, but after a complaint is filed an investigation is required to be conducted pursuant to Title 5, section 59334, and will be completed unless the matter is informally resolved and the complainant dismisses the complaint. Any efforts at informal resolution after the filing of a written complaint will not exceed the 90-day period for rendering the administrative determination pursuant to Title 5, section 59336.

In employment-related cases, if the complainant files with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, a copy of that filing will be sent to the State Chancellor's Office requesting a determination of whether a further investigation under Title 5 is required. Unless the State Chancellor's Office determines that a separate investigation is required, the District will discontinue its investigation under Title 5 and the matter will be resolved through the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

The District will make every effort to complete investigations and resolve complaints as quickly as possible. In discrimination complaints containing issues of academic freedom, the District must consult with a faculty member appointed by the Academic Senate with respect to contemporary practices and standards for course content and delivery. The District will provide for representation where required by law and may allow for representation for the accused and complainant in other circumstances on a case by case basis.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59327, 59328, 59334, 59336, and 59339; *NLRB v. Weingarten, Inc.* (1975) 420 U.S. 251.

### **Filing of Formal Written Complaint**

If a complainant decides to file a formal written unlawful discrimination complaint against the District, he or she must file the complaint on a form prescribed by the State Chancellor. These approved forms are available from the District and also at the State Chancellor's website, as follows:

<http://www.cccco.edu/divisions/legal/Discrimination/discrimination.htm>

The completed form must be filed with the District representative or mailed directly to the State Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges.

Once a complaint is filed, the individual(s) accused of engaging in prohibited discriminatory conduct should be advised of that filing and the general nature of the complaint. This should occur as soon as possible and appropriate under the circumstances. The District will also advise the accused that an assessment of the accuracy of the allegations has not yet been made, that the complaint will be investigated, that the accused will be provided an opportunity to present his/her side of the matter, and that any conduct that could be viewed as retaliatory against the complainant or any witnesses must be avoided.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59311 and 59328.

### **Threshold Requirements Prior to Investigation of a Formal Written Complaint**

When a formal written complaint is filed it will be reviewed to determine if the complaint meets the following requirements:

- The complaint must be filed on a form prescribed by the State Chancellor's Office.
- The complaint must allege unlawful discrimination prohibited under Title 5, section 59300.
- The complaint must be filed by one who alleges that he or she has personally suffered unlawful discrimination or by one who has learned of such unlawful discrimination in his or her official capacity as a faculty member, staff member, or administrator.
- In any complaint not involving employment, the complaint must be filed within one year of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination or within one year of the date on which the complainant knew or should have known of the facts underlying the specific incident or incidents of alleged unlawful discrimination
- In any complaint alleging discrimination in employment, the complaint shall be filed within 180 days of the date the alleged unlawful discrimination occurred, except that this period will be extended by no more than 90 days following the expiration of that 180 days if the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged violation after the expiration of 180 days.

If the complaint is defective it will be immediately returned to the complainant with a complete explanation of why an investigation could not be initiated under Title 5, California Code of Regulations, section 59300 et seq. Additional information about this initial review of complaints can be found in the Guidelines for Processing Formal Title 5 Unlawful Discrimination Complaints prepared by the State Chancellor's Office.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59328.

### **Notice to State Chancellor or District**

A copy of all complaints filed in accordance with the Title 5 regulations will be forwarded to the State Chancellor's Office immediately upon receipt. Similarly, when the State Chancellor's Office receives a complaint a copy will be forwarded to the District.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59330.

### **Confidentiality of the Process**

Investigative processes can best be conducted within a confidential climate, and the District does not reveal information about such matters except as necessary to fulfill its legal obligations. However, potential complainants are sometimes reluctant to pursue a complaint if their names will be revealed.

The inability to reveal the name of a complainant or facts that are likely to reveal the identity of the complainant can severely limit the ability of the District to respond. Complainants must also recognize that persons who are accused of wrongdoing have a right to present their side of the matter, and this right may be jeopardized if the District is prohibited from revealing the name of the complainant or facts that are likely to disclose the identity of the complainant.

If a complainant insists that his or her name not be revealed, the responsible officer should take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the complainant's request as long as doing so does not jeopardize the rights of other students or employees.

It is also important that complainants and witnesses understand the possibility that they may be charged with allegations of defamation if they circulate the charges outside of the District's process. In general, persons who are participating in a District investigative or disciplinary process that is related to a charge of discrimination are protected from tort claims such as defamation. However, persons who make allegations outside of these processes or who discuss their claims with persons outside of the process may expose themselves to tort charges. Complainants, witnesses, and those accused of discrimination will all be asked to sign a confidentiality acknowledgement statement.

Where an investigation reveals the need for disciplinary action, the complainant may wish to have information about what disciplinary actions the District took. However, the privacy rights of the persons involved often prevent the District from providing such information. In student disciplinary actions for sexual assault/physical abuse charges, Education Code, section 76234 provides that the victim shall be informed of the disciplinary action, but that the victim must keep the information confidential. Disciplinary actions taken against employees are generally considered confidential.

Authority: Cal. Const. Art. I, § 1; Civil Code § 47; Ed. Code, §§ 76234 and 87740; *Silberg v. Anderson* (1990) 50 Cal.3d. 205; Revised *Sexual Harassment Guidance: Harassment of Students by School Employees, Other Students, or Third Parties, Title IX*, Office for Civil Rights, January 19, 2001.

## **Administrative Determination**

Within 90 days of receiving an unlawful discrimination complaint filed under Title 5, sections 59300 et seq., the responsible District officer will complete the investigation and forward a copy of the investigative report to the State Chancellor, a copy or summary of the report to the complainant, and written notice setting forth all the following to both the complainant and the State Chancellor:

- (a) The determination of the chief executive officer or his/her designee as to whether there is probable cause to believe discrimination occurred with respect to each allegation in the complaint;
- (b) a description of actions taken, if any, to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future;
- (c) the proposed resolution of the complaint; and
- (d) the complainant's right to appeal to the District governing board and the State Chancellor.

The Palomar Community College District recognizes the importance of and is therefore committed to completing investigations and resolving complaints as quickly as possible, consistent with the requirements for a thorough investigation.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59336.

### **Complainant's Appeal Rights**

Complainants have appeal rights that they may exercise if they are not satisfied with the results of the District's administrative determination. At the time the administrative determination and summary is mailed to the complainant, the responsible District officer or his/her designee shall notify the complainant of his or her appeal rights as follows:

- First level of appeal: The complainant has the right to file an appeal to the District's governing board within 15 days from the date of the administrative determination. The District's governing board will review the original complaint, the investigative report, the administrative determination, and the appeal.
- The District's governing board will issue a final District decision in the matter within 45 days after receiving the appeal. Alternatively, the District's governing board may elect to take no action within 45 days, in which case the original decision in the administrative determination will be deemed to be affirmed and shall become the final District decision in the matter. A copy of the final decision rendered by the District's governing board will be forwarded to the complainant and to the State Chancellor's Office.
- Second level of appeal: The complainant has the right to file an appeal with the California Community College Chancellor's Office in any case not involving employment-related discrimination within 30 days from the date that the governing board issues the final District decision or permits the administrative determination to become final by taking no action within 45 days. The appeal must be accompanied by a copy of the decision of the governing board or evidence showing the date on which the complainant filed

an appeal with the governing board, and a statement under penalty of perjury that no response was received from the governing board within 45 days from that date.

Complainants must submit all appeals in writing.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59338 and 59339.

### **Forward to State Chancellor**

Within 150 days of receiving a complaint, the responsible District officer will forward the following to the State Chancellor:

- A copy of the final District decision rendered by the governing board or a statement indicating the date on which the administrative determination became final as a result of taking no action on the appeal within 45 days.
- A copy of the notice of appeal rights the District sent the complainant.
- Any other information the State Chancellor may require.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, §§ 59338 and 59340.

### **Extensions**

If for reasons beyond its control, the District is unable to comply with the 90-day or 150-day deadlines specified above for submission of materials to the complainant and the State Chancellor's Office, the responsible District officer will file a written request that the State Chancellor grant an extension of the deadline. The request will be submitted no later than 10 days prior to the expiration of the deadlines established by Title 5 in sections 59336 and/or 59340 and will set forth the reasons for the request and the date by which the District expects to be able to submit the required materials.

A copy of the request for an extension will be sent to the complainant, who may file written objections with the State Chancellor within 5 days of receipt.

The State Chancellor may grant the request unless delay would be prejudicial to the complainant. If an extension of the 90-day deadline is granted by the State Chancellor the 150-day deadline is automatically extended by an equal amount.

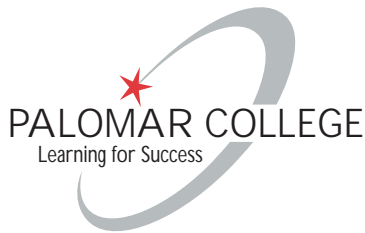
Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59342.

## **Record Retention**

Unlawful discrimination records that are part of an employee's employment records may be classified as Class-1 Permanent records and retained indefinitely or microfilmed in accordance with Title 5, California Code of Regulations, Section 59022. Unlawful discrimination records of a student that are deemed worthy of preservation but not classified as Class-1 Permanent may be classified as Class-2 Optional records or as Class-3 Disposable records, to be retained for a period of three years.

Authority: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 5, § 59020.

Board Approved: December 10, 2002



## **PALOMAR COLLEGE**

### **Unlawful Discrimination Complaint Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or P.O. Box City State Zip

**Phone:** Day ( ) Evening ( )

**I Am A:** ☐ Student ☐ Employee ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**I Wish To Complain Against:**

**District:** \_\_\_\_\_ **College:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Most Recent Incident of Alleged Discrimination:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Nonemployment complaints must be filed within one year of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination.*

*Employment complaints must be filed within six months of the date of the alleged unlawful discrimination)*

**I Allege Discrimination Based on the Following Category Protected under Title 5 (you must select at least one):**

- |                                   |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Group Identification | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Retaliation               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ancestry | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Disability           | <input type="checkbox"/> Race                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sex (includes Harassment) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Color    | <input type="checkbox"/> National Origin             | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation        |

**Clearly state your complaint. Describe each incident of alleged discrimination separately. For each action provide the following information: 1) date(s) the discriminatory action occurred, 2) name of individual(s) who discriminated; 3) what happened; 4) witnesses (if any); and 5) why you believe the discrimination was because of protected group status [religion, age, race, sex or whatever basis you indicated above] and/or, if applicable, why you believe you were retaliated against for filing of complaint or asserting your rights. (Attach additional pages as necessary.)**

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**What would you like the District to do as a result of your complaint -- what remedy are you seeking?:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**I certify that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Complainant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*