I. FORWARD

A. General Policy
The University of Alabama, like any community, must have regulations by which its members abide and procedures by which its organizations function. These regulations are necessary to provide a campus atmosphere conducive to the intellectual and personal development of all members of the University community. When members of the University community break these rules and regulations, then the University has a primary responsibility to discipline those individuals and organizations that have failed to abide by reasonable standards of conduct. Organizations and students have a responsibility to abide by the rules and regulations for the University. The Student Handbook contains policies that affect students and organizations. Within this Handbook and other official University publications are the rules and regulations that govern student and organizational behavior.

B. Disciplinary Authority
The authority to enact and enforce regulations of the University is vested in the Board of Trustees. The responsibility for enforcing regulations and imposing penalties is delegated to the President and any University officials the President may designate. The President has drawn a distinction between academic and non-academic misconduct. The Provost and Academic Vice President have the responsibility for academic misconduct. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is the principal agency for the administration of non-academic student discipline, and the Office of Student Conduct shall implement the non-academic student discipline procedures. All reference to the President of the University, the Academic Vice President, the Vice President for Student Affairs, or the Executive Director of Student Conduct shall also be interpreted to include persons designated to act on behalf of these officials.

C. Equal Opportunity Policy and Non-discrimination Notice
Numerous federal and state laws and executive orders prohibit unlawful discrimination in employment and education.
Summary of Major Federal Equal Opportunity Laws
Major Federal Equal Opportunity Laws: By Category
Enforcement Agencies

Equal Opportunity Policies
The University of Alabama provides equal opportunity in education and employment for all qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status.

Harassment Policy
Nondiscrimination Notice

The University of Alabama complies with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans Adjustment Assistance Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 and does not discriminate on the basis of genetic information, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or veteran status in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in, its programs and services. Inquiries and concerns may be directed to Ms. Gwendolyn Hood, University Compliance Officer, 171 Rose Administration Building, Box 870300, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0300, (205) 348-5855 (Voice); (205) 348-5573 (TDD). Inquiries or concerns regarding The University’s Title IX Compliance may be directed to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Beth Howard, 152A Rose Administration Building, Box 870114, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0114, (205) 348-5496, gbhoward@ua.edu.

REAFFIRMATION OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

March 20, 2013

MEMORANDUM
To: All Faculty, Staff, and Students
From: Judy Bonner
Re: Reaffirmation of Equal Opportunity Policy and Nondiscrimination Notice

The University annually reaffirms its commitment to equal opportunity, acknowledging publicly its obligation to operate in a constitutional and non-discriminatory fashion, both as an Equal Opportunity Employer and as an Equal Opportunity Educational Institution. This serves as a reminder to all within our community that faculty, staff, and students must conduct themselves in a manner free of unlawful discrimination of any kind in the educational processes and in interactions within the workplace.

As an academic community, our educational mission is enhanced by the robust exchange of ideas that occurs within a diverse and inclusive learning environment, with a diverse student body, faculty and senior level administrative staff. We are dedicated to the pursuit of personal and academic excellence, to advancing the ideals of individual worth and human dignity, and to maintaining a nurturing and respectful learning environment. Individuals who live, work, teach, and study within this community are expected to contribute positively to the environment and to refrain from behaviors which threaten the freedom or respect that every member of our community deserves.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The University of Alabama complies with applicable laws prohibiting discrimination, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Executive Order 11246, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Vietnam Era Veterans Adjustment Assistance Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 and does not discriminate on the basis of genetic information, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or veteran status in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in, its programs and services. Inquiries and concerns may be directed to Ms. Gwendolyn Hood, University Compliance Officer, 171 Rose Administration Building, Box 870300, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0300, (205) 348-5855 (Voice); (205) 348-5573 (TDD). Inquiries or concerns regarding The University’s Title IX Compliance may be directed to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Beth Howard, 152A Rose Administration Building, Box 870114, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0114, (205) 348-5496, gbhoward@ua.edu.
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

March 20, 2013
MEMORANDUM
To: All Faculty, Staff, and Students
From: Judy Bonner
Re: The University of Alabama Statement on Diversity

The work of The University of Alabama is of critical importance to our state, nation, and world. Each day our students, faculty, staff and administrators touch lives through their amazing work in and out of the classroom. Guiding our work is a set of core values. They include, but are not limited to, creating an environment that fosters integrity, respect, trust, openness, exceptional performance, and accountability. We work to create an environment that encourages each individual to realize their full potential as we embrace their differences.

The mission of The University of Alabama is to advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the State through quality programs of teaching, research, and service. That educational mission is enhanced by the robust exchange of ideas that occurs within a diverse and inclusive environment. Students who learn from each other and from faculty members and administrators, including those at the highest levels of leadership, in an environment with a variety of backgrounds are better able to understand, appreciate, and contribute to our twenty-first century global society. Consequently, the University endorses a student, faculty, and administrative community enriched by women and men of diverse national origins, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, cultures, socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds, ages, physical abilities, and religious and political beliefs. The University is committed to offering diverse cultural programs, intercultural education, and other educational initiatives (such as the University’s Crossroads Community Center) that enhance awareness and appreciation of cultural and individual diversity, promote community, and prepare students for the global society in which they will live and work.

As an institution of higher learning, The University of Alabama attaches great value to freedom of speech and open debate, but it also attaches great importance to the principles of civility and respect which govern an academic community. Harassment or other illegal discrimination against individuals or groups not only is a violation of University Policy and subject to disciplinary action, but also is inconsistent with the values and ideals of the University.

It is the goal of The University of Alabama to cultivate a hospitable campus environment in which all members of the University can work together and learn from each other in a climate of mutual respect. I pledge my personal commitment to this goal, and I hope that all in the campus community will pledge their commitment as well.

D. Policy on Sexual Harassment and Guidelines and Procedures for Reporting and Resolving Complaints

HARASSMENT POLICY
I. Statement of Policy

A. Harassment Is Not Tolerated

The University of Alabama is committed to providing an environment for employees, students, and campus visitors that is free from illegal harassment based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status. Such illegal harassment violates federal civil rights laws and University nondiscrimination policy and may lead to personal liability for the results of such behavior.
The University of Alabama is committed to providing and promoting an atmosphere in which employees can realize their maximum potential in the workplace and students can engage fully in the learning process. Toward this end, all members of the University community (including faculty, staff and students) must understand that harassment based upon one’s protected status as identified above will not be tolerated, and that they are required to abide by the following policy. The University will take appropriate action to prevent, correct, and where warranted, discipline behavior that violates its Harassment Policy.

The University implements its Harassment Policy through preventive education and training and through procedures for investigating and resolving claims of harassment. Employees and students are encouraged to review the University’s on-line training tutorial on harassment (http://training.newmedialearning.com/psh/ua/) and participate in training programs, which are offered by a variety of departments and divisions, including the Department of Human Resources. Individuals who believe they are being harassed are encouraged to report the problem to appropriate administrative officials. Information about appropriate complaint channels and the procedures for resolution of claims of harassment follows and can also be obtained from the Deans’ Offices, the Vice Presidents’ Offices, the Department of Human Resources, or the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.

B. Retaliation Is Not Tolerated

The University encourages students, faculty, and staff to express freely, responsibly, and in an orderly way opinions and feelings about any problem or complaint of harassment. Retaliation against persons who oppose or complain about harassment is strictly prohibited. Retaliation is any action that has the effect of punishing a person for engaging in a legally protected activity, such as alleging harassment, making a harassment complaint, or assisting in a harassment investigation. Examples of retaliatory adverse employment actions include suspension, demotion, or termination. In addition, this policy prohibits retaliation in the form of harassment, intimidation, threats, or coercion, or in the form of any materially adverse harm that would dissuade a reasonable student or employee from filing a harassment complaint or participating in a harassment investigation.

An employee/student is protected against retaliation for his or her opposition to harassment as long as the employee/student has a reasonable and “good faith” belief that the complained of conduct is illegal, even if it turns out that the complainant was mistaken as to the legality of the conduct. It is a violation of the University’s policy to retaliate against the complainant(s), respondent(s), witnesses or others involved in the review of such complaints. Any employee who retaliates against an employee or a student in violation of the law and/or the University’s Harassment policy is subject to disciplinary action.

This Harassment policy shall not, however, be used to bring frivolous or malicious complaints against students, faculty or other employees. If a complaint has been made in bad faith, as demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence, disciplinary action may be taken against the person bringing the complaint.

II. Factors Considered in Determining Existence of Harassment

A. Definition of Harassment

Harassment is abusive or hostile conduct which is directed toward or inflicted upon another person because of his or her race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran’s status and which, because of its severity or pervasiveness, unreasonably interferes with an individual’s work or academic performance or creates a hostile or abusive work or learning environment for that individual’s work, education, or participation in a University activity. Harassment is typically based on stereotyped prejudices and includes, but is not limited to, slurs, jokes, objectionable epithets, or other verbal, graphic, or physical conduct that demeans, insults, or intimidates an individual because of his or her race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status.
B. Sexual Harassment Defined

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of employment or academic advancement; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s performance as an employee or student or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or learning environment.

C. Factors Considered in Assessing Whether Harassment Exists

In determining whether conduct constitutes prohibited harassment, the following understandings shall apply:

1. Harassment must be distinguished from behavior which, even though unpleasant or uncomfortable, is appropriate to the carrying out of instructional or supervisory responsibilities (e.g., criticism of work, corrective discipline, performance evaluation; discussion of controversial topics germane to an academic subject);

2. The totality of the circumstances must be evaluated to determine whether a particular act or course of conduct constitutes harassment, including the frequency, severity, and context of the questioned conduct and whether the conduct was physically threatening and humiliating or a mere utterance;

3. The conduct alleged to be harassment will be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable person in a similar situation and not simply the particular sensitivity or reaction of an individual;

4. An isolated incident of hostile behavior, although offensive, usually will not be sufficient to establish a claim of illegal harassment. For example, generally, a single sexual joke, offensive epithet, or request for a date does not constitute sexual harassment; however, being subjected to such jokes, epithets or requests repeatedly may constitute sexual harassment. However, administrators and supervisors should take corrective action when such isolated incidents occur, in order to ensure that repetition of that or similar conduct does not rise to the level of illegal harassment; and

5. Although repeated incidents of hostile conduct generally create a stronger claim of harassment, a serious incident, even if isolated, may be sufficient.

D. Academic Freedom and Harassment

In cases of alleged illegal harassment, the protections of the First Amendment must be considered if issues of speech or artistic expression are involved. Free speech rights apply in the classroom and in all other education programs and activities of public institutions, and First Amendment rights apply to the speech of students and teachers. Great care must be taken not to inhibit open discussion, academic debate, and expression of personal opinion, particularly in the classroom. Nonetheless, speech or conduct of a harassing, sexual or hostile nature; which occurs in the context of educational instruction may exceed the protections of academic freedom and constitute prohibited harassment if it meets the definition of harassment noted above and 1) is reasonably regarded as non-professorial speech (i.e., advances a personal interest of the faculty member as opposed to furthering the learning process or legitimate objectives of the course), or 2) lacks accepted pedagogical purpose or is not germane to the academic subject matter.
III. Reporting of Harassment or Related Retaliation Allegations

A. Prompt Reporting Required
Persons who believe they have been targets of harassment or related retaliation should report the incident(s) immediately to appropriate administrative officials as set forth on the Title IX website at http://www.titleix.ua.edu/report-a-violation.html. Delay in reporting to these university officials makes it more difficult fairly and adequately investigate the incident.

B. Confidentiality
The University will do everything consistent with enforcement of this policy and with the law to protect the privacy of the individuals involved and to ensure that the complainant and the accused are treated fairly. Information about individual complaints and their disposition is considered confidential and will be shared only on a “need to know” basis.

C. Reporting Channels
The following sections identify appropriate harassment resource persons and complaint-receiving officials that students and employees should contact regarding illegal harassment and/or retaliation for complaining or participating in a complaint or investigation.

A. Responsibilities of Supervisory Personnel
All members of the university community have a general responsibility to contribute in a positive way to a university environment that is free of illegal harassment. Supervisory personnel, however, have additional responsibilities. Supervisory personnel are not only responsible for educating and sensitizing employees in their units about harassment issues, but they are also directed to take all appropriate steps to prevent and stop harassment in their areas of responsibility, which may include training. Supervisory personnel who are contacted by an individual seeking to file a complaint about harassment in their unit or area of responsibility shall assist the complainant in contacting the appropriate complaint-receiving officials identified below.

B. Student Complaints
Students with complaints of harassment against faculty members, graduate assistants or other student employees, and staff members in departments, schools, or colleges should contact the designated Harassment Resource Person in their department, school or college or in the department, school or college in which the alleged offender is employed. A faculty member to whom a student has come with a complaint of harassment should recommend that the student contact the designated Harassment Resource Person. The name and location of the designated Harassment Resource Person can be obtained online from the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs website at http://eop.ua.edu/persons.html or from the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.

Students participating in internships, field placements, student teaching, or similar academic experiences in settings off campus should report complaints of harassment arising out of those placements to the University faculty or staff member providing supervision or to the designated Harassment Resource Person in their college or school.
Students with complaints of harassment against other students should be addressed to the Student Affairs designated Harassment Resource Person(s).

Students who believe for any reason that they cannot effectively communicate their concern through any of these channels may consult the University Compliance Officer in the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, or if conflicts exist with the University Compliance Officer, students may consult with the Office of the Provost.

Students who believe they are targets of sexual assault or sexual harassment may seek advice and referral from both the Women’s Resource Center and the Counseling Center. These offices keep all information confidential and neither receive formal complaints nor conduct investigations. The Counseling Center is also available to students for assistance on a wide range of issues.

C. Employee Complaints

Employees should report complaints of harassment to the designated Harassment Resource Person for the college, school, or administrative unit in which they are employed or to the Department of Human Resources. Employees who believe for any reason that they cannot effectively communicate their concerns through any of these channels may consult the University Compliance Officer in the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, or if conflicts exist with the University Compliance Officer, employees may consult with the Office of the Provost.

Employees who believe they are targets of sexual assault or sexual harassment may seek advice and referral from the Women’s Resource Center. The Women’s Resource Center keeps all information confidential and neither receives formal complaints nor conducts investigations.

D. Procedures for Handling Complaints of Harassment

Individuals who believe they are targets of unlawful harassment in their working or academic environments are encouraged, but not required, to respond to the alleged harasser directly, by objecting and by requesting that the unwelcome behavior stop. Individuals may also seek assistance or intervention, short of filing a complaint, from their supervisor or University complaint-receiving officials referenced in paragraphs C (2) and (3) above.

An initial discussion between the complainant and the complaint-receiving official will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law, with no formal written record. The complaint-receiving official will explain the options available and will counsel the complainant. If the complainant, after an initial meeting with the complaint-receiving official, decides to proceed, the complainant will be requested to provide a written statement describing the complaint.

Complaints of harassment will receive prompt attention. Complaints may be resolved through the informal or formal procedures described below, and appropriate action will be taken. Informal means are encouraged as the beginning point, but the choice of where to begin normally rests with the complainant. However, if the complaint-receiving official believes that the matter is sufficiently grave because it seems to be part of a persistent pattern, because of the nature of the alleged offense, or because the complainant seeks to have a sanction imposed, then the complaint-receiving official will initiate a formal procedure, or take other appropriate action.
1. **Informal Procedures**

   a) The complainant may attempt to resolve the matter directly with the alleged offender and report back to the complaint-receiving official.

   b) The complaint-receiving official may notify the alleged offender of the complaint, paying appropriate attention to the need to maintain confidentiality. The complaint-receiving official may take whatever steps short of disciplinary sanctions that he or she deems appropriate to effect an informal resolution acceptable to both parties.

   c) Where the alleged offender is a student, the complainant and accused may choose to participate in mediation. If a complaint is resolved informally, no record of the complaint will be entered in the alleged offender’s personnel file or student records. However, the complaint-receiving official will, in the form of a confidential file memorandum, record the fact of the complaint and the resolution achieved. A copy of this memorandum will be forwarded to the University Compliance Officer in the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs where it will be retained in confidential files.

2. **Formal Procedures**

   In formal resolution procedures, the written and signed complaint will be directed to the following officials:

   a) If the complaint is against a faculty member, other instructional personnel, or staff employed in a college or school, it should be directed to the dean of the college/school.

   b) If the complaint is against a staff member in a unit other than a college or school, it should be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.

   c) If the complaint is against a student, not acting in an instructional or other employment capacity, it should be directed to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

   d) If the complaint is against a person outside the University (non-employee, non-student), it should be directed to the dean of the college or school if the behavior is occurring in a college or school, to the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs if the behavior is occurring in the work environment outside an academic unit, or to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs if the complainant is a student.

   e) If conflicts or other problems exist with the dean or the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs handling the complaint, the complaint may be filed with the University Compliance Officer in the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. If conflicts exist with the University Compliance Officer, individuals may consult with the Office of the Provost.

   The officials listed directly above, or their appointed designees, will conduct a prompt and appropriate investigation, conducting whatever inquiry they deem necessary, and will arrange conferences with the complainant, the alleged offender, and any other appropriate persons. The investigation, subject to the confidentiality provision above, will afford the accused an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Those directing investigations will make a record of the case, including a record of their decision and any sanctions imposed. Those records are to be
retained for at least four years after the individual leaves the University employment. The officials conducting the inquiry shall forward to the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (i) a copy of the complaint, (ii) the decision made regarding the complaint, and (iii) any resolution achieved, including any sanctions imposed, which will be retained in that office’s confidential files. The complainant and the alleged offender will be notified whether the investigation results in a finding of a policy violation; however, that information should be treated by both parties as confidential and private. (Mandating harassment training is not to be considered a “sanction”).

A complainant not satisfied with the resolution achieved by the formal procedures may discuss the matter further with the University Compliance Officer in the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.

E. Disciplinary Sanctions

A conclusion that harassment in violation of University policy or the law has occurred shall subject the offender to appropriate disciplinary action and may result in suspension, discharge, expulsion or dismissal. University disciplinary procedures and possible sanctions are described in the Code of Student Conduct in the Student Handbook, the Staff Handbook and Policy Manual, and the Faculty Handbook. Sanctions imposed will be determined on the basis of the facts of each case and the extent of harm to the University’s interests.

F. Sexual Assault Policy

**Commitment:** The University of Alabama will not tolerate acts of sexual assault. The University of Alabama is committed to creating a community, which promotes the mutual respect of its members and is supportive of its sexual assault survivors.

**Definition:** Sexual assault is defined as any form of sexual contact without the consent of all parties involved to include: a. Sexual intercourse committed by physical force, coercion, threat or intimidation, actual or implied by a person or persons known or unknown to the victim. b. Attempted intercourse, sexual contact, or physical force of a threatening nature expressed or implied that places a person in fear of immediate death or physical injury known or unknown to the victim. c. All other forms of sexual misconduct, which violates state and/or federal law now or subsequently in effect including, but not limited to, conduct defined as rape, sodomy, sexual abuse or sexual contact and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. A person may be deemed not to have knowingly and voluntarily consented if, at the time of the offense, the person is incapable of giving consent because of mental incapacitation, physical impairment, alcohol or drug consumption, or loss of consciousness.

**Reporting Process:** The University strongly encourages individuals to report sexual assaults to the appropriate authorities and officials. Reporting an assault is the only way that action can be taken against the alleged attacker. Victims are encouraged to use the following procedures: 1. Individuals are to first contact the University Police or local police authorities. Both agencies may be reached by calling Emergency 911. 2. Individuals may also contact the following University administrative offices for assistance. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to report allegations or concerns to The Women’s Resource Center. Students may also report their concerns to the Vice President for Student Affairs Office and or the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Upon the person’s request, these officials or their designee will assist in notifying proper law enforcement officers. 3. The Women’s Resource Center will follow up to ensure that the victim is aware of available services and is encouraged to utilize them.
G. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

March 20, 2013
MEMORANDUM
To: All Faculty, Staff, and Students
From: Judy Bonner
Re: Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

In keeping with its mission and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and other applicable laws, The University of Alabama is committed to providing persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all programs and services offered by the University.

The University provides reasonable accommodations for program accessibility and employment for qualified persons with disabilities as defined in applicable laws and regulations. Reasonable accommodations are made on an individualized basis. It is the responsibility of persons with disabilities, however, to seek available assistance and make their needs known. Employees are encouraged to make their needs known to their supervisors or to the Department of Human Resources. Patrons participating in University-sponsored programs and activities should make their requests directly to the department or unit sponsoring the program/activity, or to the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.

The University has designated the Office of Disability Services (http://ods.ua.edu/) as the campus coordinating office for the provision and delivery of services and reasonable accommodations that ensure the University’s programs, services, and activities are accessible to students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services is available to assist any student who has a qualified and documented disability. The Office of Disability Services also serves as a resource to faculty members and University departments, assisting them in accommodating the needs of students with disabilities in the classroom and other program settings.

While the University strives to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities as fully as possible, reasonable accommodations do not include measures which fundamentally alter the University’s programs and services or which place an undue administrative or financial burden on the University. The University is committed to identifying and removing potential accessibility barriers in its facilities and on its grounds for employees, students, and campus visitors with mobility impairments. To report an ADA accessibility problem on campus, you are encouraged to call the ADA Hotline at 205-348-5882 and leave a message or e-mail facilities@fa.ua.edu.

Ms. Gwendolyn Hood, University Compliance Officer, is the designated ADA Coordinator for the campus. Inquiries concerning ADA requirements and compliance may be directed to Ms. Gwendolyn Hood, 171 Rose Administration Building, Box 870300, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0300, (205) 348-5855 (Voice); (205) 348-5573 (TDD). Further information about Disability/Accommodations issues can be found at http://eop.ua.edu/disabilities.html.