

# FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE AND ETHICS CHARTER

## **Purpose and Mission**

The University's Compliance and Ethics Program shall be composed of a Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer and his/her assistants, if any, either employees or contractors and are hereinafter referred to collectively as “University Compliance”. University Compliance provides oversight and guidance to university-wide ethics, compliance, and enterprise risk management activities, and fosters a culture that embeds these disciplines in all university functions and activities. The office provides centralized and coordinated oversight through the ongoing development of effective policies and procedures, education and training, monitoring, communication, risk assessment, and response to reported issues as required by Chapter 8 of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Board of Governors Regulation 4.003. These guidelines and regulation set forth the requirements of an effective compliance and ethics program and require promoting compliance with laws and ethical conduct.

The mission of the office is to support and promote a culture of ethics, compliance, risk mitigation, and accountability.

## **Reporting Structure and Independence**

University Compliance reports administratively to the President, and functionally to the Audit and Compliance Committee of the Board of Trustees. This reporting structure promotes independence and full consideration of University Compliance’s recommendations and action plans.

The Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer and staff shall have organizational independence and objectivity to perform their responsibilities and all activities of the office shall remain free from influence.

## **Authority**

University Compliance has the authority to review or investigate all areas of the university, including its direct support organizations and faculty practice plan. Reviews and investigations shall not be restricted or limited by management, the President, or the Board of Trustees. University Compliance has unrestricted and timely access to records, data, personnel, and physical property relevant to performing compliance reviews and investigations, and to allow for appropriate oversight and guidance related to compliance, ethics, and risk mitigation efforts.

The Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer will notify the President and request remediation of any unresolved restriction or barrier imposed by any individual on the scope of any inquiry, or the failure to provide access to necessary information or people for the purposes of such inquiry. If unresolved by the President or if the inappropriate restriction is imposed by the President, the Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer will notify the chair of the Audit and Compliance Committee of

the Board of Trustees. If not resolved, the Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer will notify the Board of Governors through the Office of the Inspector General and Director of Compliance.

Documents and records obtained for the above purposes will be handled in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and university policies and procedures. As required by law, University Compliance will comply with public records requests.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

The duties and responsibilities of the Chief Compliance And Ethics Officer and staff include projects and activities that fulfill the requirements for an effective compliance and ethics program as required by Chapter 8 of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and Board of Governors Regulation 4.003. The University Compliance and Ethics Program (“Program”) will be reasonably designed to optimize its effectiveness in preventing or detecting noncompliance, unethical behavior, and criminal conduct. The Program’s design supports mitigation of risks to the university and its employees and provides safe harbor in the event of misconduct or noncompliance. The following elements define the duties and responsibilities of the office:

1. Oversight of Compliance and Ethics and Related Activities
2. Development of Effective Lines of Communication
3. Providing Effective Training and Education
4. Revising and Developing Policies and Procedures
5. Performing Internal Monitoring, Investigations, and Compliance Reviews
6. Responding Promptly to Detected Problems and Undertaking Corrective Action
7. Enforcing and Promoting Standards through Appropriate Incentives and Disciplinary Guidelines
8. Measuring Compliance Program Effectiveness
9. Oversight and Coordination of External Inquiries into Compliance with Federal and State Laws and Take Appropriate Steps to Ensure Safe Harbor

The Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer and staff will:

- Develop a Program plan based on the requirements for an effective program. The Program plan and subsequent changes will be provided to the board of trustees for approval. A copy of the approved plan will be provided to the Board of Governors.
- Provide training to university employees and Board of Trustees’ members regarding their responsibility and accountability for ethical conduct and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, rules, policies, and procedures. The Program plan will specify when and how often this training will occur.
- Obtain an external review of the Program’s design and effectiveness at least once every five years. The review and any recommendations for improvement will be provided to the President and Board of Trustees. The assessment will be approved by the Board of Trustees and a copy provided to the Board of Governors.
- Identify and provide oversight and coordination of compliance partners responsible for compliance and ethics related activities across campus and provide communication, training, and guidance on the Program and compliance and ethics related matters.

- Administer and promote, a compliance and ethics hotline, an anonymous mechanism available for individuals to report potential or actual misconduct and violations of university policy, regulations, or law, and ensure that no individual faces retaliation for reporting a potential or actual violation when such report is made in good faith.
- Maintain and communicate the university's policy on reporting misconduct and protection from retaliation and ensure the policy articulates the steps for reporting and escalating matters of alleged misconduct, including criminal conduct, when there are reasonable grounds to believe such conduct has occurred.
- Communicate routinely to the President and the board of trustees regarding Program activities. Annually report on the effectiveness of the Program. Any Program plan revisions, based on the Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer's report, shall be approved by the Board of Trustees. A copy of the report and revised plan will be provided to the Board of Governors.
- Promote and enforce the Program, in consultation with the President and Board of Trustees, consistently through appropriate incentives and disciplinary measures to encourage a culture of compliance and ethics. Failures in compliance and ethics will be addressed through appropriate measures, including education or disciplinary action.
- Initiate, conduct, supervise, coordinate, or refer to other appropriate offices such inquiries, investigations, or reviews deemed appropriate in accordance with university regulations and policies, state statutes, and/or federal regulations.
- Make necessary modification to the Program in response to detected non-compliance, unethical behavior, or criminal conduct and take steps to prevent its occurrence.
- Assist the university in its responsibility to use reasonable efforts to exclude within the university and its affiliated organizations individuals whom it knew or should have known through the exercise of due diligence to have engaged in conduct not consistent with an effective Program.
- Coordinate or request compliance activity information or assistance as necessary from any university, federal, state, or local government entity.
- Oversee and coordinate external inquiries into compliance with federal and state laws and take appropriate steps to ensure safe harbor in instances of non-compliance.
- Pursue a reasonable and appropriate course of continuing education, including but not limited to review of relevant professional and industry journals and publications, communication with professional colleagues and participation in open professional dialogs and exchanges through attendances and conferences and memberships in professional associations.

University Compliance provides guidance on compliance, ethics, and related matters to the university community. The office collaborates with compliance partners and senior leadership to review and resolve compliance and ethics issues and coordinate compliance and ethics activities, accomplish objectives, and facilitate the resolution of problems.

To ensure University Compliance staff has the capabilities to perform the duties and responsibilities as described the Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer will:

- Maintain a professional staff with sufficient size, knowledge, skills, experience, and professional certifications.

- Utilize third-party resources as appropriate to supplement the department's efforts.
- Perform assessments of the program and make appropriate changes and improvements.

## **Professional Standards**

University Compliance adheres to the *Florida Code of Ethics* and the *Code of Professional Ethics for Compliance and Ethics Professionals* promulgated by the Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics.

The University Compliance Charter will be reviewed at least every three years for consistency with applicable Board of Governors and university regulations, professional standards, and best practices. Subsequent changes will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. A copy of the charter and any subsequent changes will be provided to the Board of Governors.

Adoption of Charter: The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees adopted the University Compliance and Ethics Charter on March 15, 2017.

History: Adopted by the Board of Trustees March 15, 2017; reviewed and approved on May 20, 2020, without change; and reviewed and approved on September 21, 2023, with changes.