

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Florida Gulf Coast University is formally committed to nondiscrimination on such grounds as noted in its policies, procedures and practices including gender equity in sports. All of us in the university community must be conscious of our responsibility to abide by the laws, regulations and principles of equality of opportunity. Further, as a community, we will work to ensure equity and fairness, for all students, faculty, staff, visitors and vendors. We are committed to these principles for we are convinced they are essential for a distinguished university. Questions regarding this policy statement or compliance with its provisions should be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance at 239-590-7405. Outside Lee County: 800-590-3428.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Student Rights

Upon enrollment, students are entitled to the following freedoms and/or rights provided the exercise thereof is accomplished in accordance with university procedures and does not result in disruption or disturbance as elsewhere described in the Rules.

1. Participation in Student Government Association and its elective process.
2. Membership in student organizations.
3. Freedom of expression. The basic freedom of students to hear, write, distribute, and act upon a variety of thoughts and beliefs is guaranteed. Freedom of expression carries with it the responsibility for seeing that the essential order of the university is preserved.
4. Freedom to hold public forums. The university desires to create a spirit of free inquiry and to promote the timely discussion of a wide variety of issues, provided the views expressed are stated openly and subject to critical evaluation. Restraints on free inquiry will be held to a minimum and will be consistent with preserving an organized society in which peaceful democratic means for change are available. Guest lecturers, or off campus speakers, sponsored by the student groups may appear on the FGCU campus following approval by the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs.
5. Freedom to hear, write, distribute and act upon a variety of thoughts and beliefs. This freedom is subject to the following regulations:
 - A. Written materials identified by authorship and sponsorship may be sold or distributed on campus within the guidelines of propriety and responsible journalism as established and

supervised by the President or his/her designee. The distribution of such material, as is approved by the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee, is permitted of student organizations provided steps have been taken to preserve the orderliness of the campus.

B. Non-university or off-campus printed materials shall not be distributed or circulated by students or student organizations without first being stamped by the Vice President of Student Affairs or designee.

C. The distribution of materials or circulation of petitions to captive audiences such as those in classrooms, at registration, in study areas, or in residential units will not be allowed without prior permission. Such permission may be requested from the pertinent university vice president, dean, or director.

6. Peaceful assembly. Existing laws and statutes shall be observed. Student gatherings must not disrupt or interfere with the orderly educational operation of the institution, nor be in violation of state or local statutes, or university policies.

7. Fair and impartial hearing. These matters shall include, but not be limited to:

A. Disciplinary proceedings involving alleged violation of academic and non-academic rules and regulations.

B. Refunds and charges. The status of a student charged with a violation of university regulations shall not be affected pending final disposition of the charges except in the case of administrative action.

8. Confidentiality of student records. Each university office and agency which generates, collects, and disseminates information on students must follow the guidelines for confidentiality of those records in their possession. For further information set "Student Education Record Policy".

9. Student grievances. Students have the right to bring com-

plaints to the attention of the university. For further information, see "Student Grievance Procedures".

10. Provisions for victims of acts associated with the University's disciplinary system. To ensure fairness to victims of acts associated with the university's disciplinary system throughout the disciplinary process, the university has established the following policy for victims/survivors:

A. A provision for a victim to have a person of his/her choice accompany her/him throughout the judicial process. This person will act as a support person or counsel but will not represent the victim/survivor.

B. A provision for the victim to submit a list of questions relating to the alleged incident prior to the hearing, that she/he feels the accused should be asked during the hearing process.

C. A provision not to have her/his irrelevant past conduct, including sexual history, discussed during the hearing. The issue of irrelevancy shall be determined by the hearing board or judicial officer.

D. The opportunity to make a "victim impact statement;" and to suggest an appropriate penalty (to include appropriate compensations) if the accused is found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

E. A provision to know the outcome of the judicial process after making a commitment to protect the confidentiality for all persons involved.

Student Responsibilities

The most basic responsibility of a student is to study and move forward in intellectual development while taking advantage of the many opportunities provided in a university environment for all around personal growth, development, and maturation.

Students and organizations are responsible for the observation