
CONSENSUAL RELATIONS POLICY

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1.0 **PURPOSE**

- 1.1 *Sexual relations between students and faculty members with whom they also have an academic or evaluative relationship are fraught with the potential for exploitation. The respect and trust accorded a professor by a student, as well as the power exercised by the professor in an academic or evaluative role, make voluntary consent by the student suspect. . . . In their relationships with students, members of the faculty are expected to be aware of their professional responsibilities and to avoid apparent or actual conflict of interest, favoritism, or bias. When a sexual relationship exists, effective steps should be taken to ensure unbiased evaluation or supervision of the student. [AAUP Policy cited by AAUP Staff counsel in SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE ACADEMY: SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FACULTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, October 2002.]*
- 1.2 Similar concerns exist when sexual relations occur between students and staff members in supervisory, evaluative, or trust positions.
- 1.3 Accordingly, the College of Charleston adopts the following policy regarding consensual relationships between students and faculty or staff:

2.0 **PROCEDURE**

- 2.1 All sexual relationships between students and faculty/staff are strongly discouraged. Further, no faculty or staff member shall have an amorous relationship (consensual or otherwise) with a student who is enrolled in a course being taught by the faculty member or whose work is being supervised, evaluated, or otherwise similarly impacted by the faculty or staff member.