



Book Policy Manual

Section Volume 35, No. 2 for Board Approval

Title Revised Policy - Volume 35, No. 2 - July 2023 - EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Code po3120

Status

Adopted October 8, 2009

Last Revised April 14, 2022

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3120 - EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

The Board of Managers recognizes that it is vital to the successful operation of the Cooperative that positions created by the Board be filled with qualified and competent personnel.

The Board shall approve the employment, and also, when not covered by the terms of a negotiated agreement, fix the compensation and establish the term of employment for each professional staff member employed by this Cooperative.

Individuals employed in the following categories shall be considered members of the professional staff:

- A. _____ Executive Director _____
- Assistant Director
- Business Manager
- Dean of Students
- Career Pathways Counselor
- Instructor
- Career and Technical Education Innovation Coach
- Academic Integration Specialist
- Special Education Coordinator

☒ Such approval shall be given only to those candidates for employment recommended by the Director.

~~☐ Such approval shall be given only to those candidates for employment chosen by the Board from a group selected by the Director.~~

☒ When any recommended candidate has been rejected by the Board, the Director shall make a substitute recommendation.

☒ All applications for employment shall be referred to the _____ Director _____.

Anti-Nepotism

'Relatives' include: children, stepchildren, siblings, half-siblings, step-siblings, spouse, domestic partner, parents, stepparents, in-laws, or bona fide dependents/living in the same residence of a Board member or staff member.

[NOTE: Choose Option A or Option B below]

[Option A]

Relatives of Board members may be employed by the Cooperative, provided the member of the Board involved does not participate in any way in the discussion or vote on the employment. Should the Cooperative choose to employ a relative as herein defined, both the relative and the Board member ~~must~~ shall file a conflict of interest statement. ~~(-) Except that such relatives may be employed only for a period which that does not exceed one (1) school year.~~ **[END OF OPTION]**

[Option B]

~~[] The Cooperative will not employ (but may reemploy) the (-) relatives of a Board member. (-) relative of a regular full time professional staff member.~~ **[END OF OPTION]**

[NOTE: Choose Option C or Option D below]

[Option C]

☒ Relatives of staff members may be employed by the Cooperative, provided the relative being employed is not placed in a position in which the relative would be supervised directly by the staff member. ~~(-) Except that such relatives may be employed only for a period which that does not exceed one (1) school year.~~ **[END OF OPTION]**

[Option D]

~~[] The Cooperative will shall not employ (but may reemploy) the relatives of a regular full time professional staff member.~~ **[END OF OPTION]**

~~**[NOTE: The Cooperative is not required to have a non-fraternization policy, however, Neola recommends adoption of language regarding non-fraternization for various legal reasons including, but not limited to claims of sexual harassment or potentially being found to be negligent for failure to provide direction especially regarding the supervisor/subordinate relationship.]**~~

[x] Non-Fraternization

[NOTE: Choose Option E or Option F below]

[Option E]

~~[] Cooperative employees may not date, develop romantic relationships with or have sexual relations with individuals who are the employee's supervisor or those that they supervise.~~ **[END OF OPTION]**

[Option F]

☒ If Cooperative employees in a supervisor-subordinate relationship choose to date, engage in a romantic relationship, or have sexual relations, the employees ~~must~~ shall notify the Cooperative's administration and accept the Cooperative's decision to transfer one or both of the employees so that they no longer have a supervisor-subordinate relationship. Anyone employed in a managerial or supervisory role needs to heed the fact that personal relationships with employees who report to them may be perceived as favoritism, misuse of authority, or potentially sexual harassment, and, consequently, are unacceptable. **[END OF OPTION]**

[NOTE: Other options to be considered]

☒ Cooperative employees may date and develop friendships and relationships with other employees—both inside and outside of the workplace—as long as the relationships do not have a negative impact on their work or the work of others.

☒ Any employee who engages in a relationship that interferes with the Cooperative culture of teamwork, the harmonious work environment, or the productivity of employees, ~~will~~ shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

☒ Adverse workplace behavior—or behavior that affects the workplace that arises because of personal relationships—~~will~~ shall not be tolerated. Cooperative employees who disregard this policy ~~will~~ shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

~~**[NOTE: Other options to be considered]**~~

☒ Any professional staff member's intentional misstatement of fact material to qualifications for employment or the determination of salary shall be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.

☒ The employment of professional staff members prior to approval by the Board is authorized when their employment is required to maintain continuity in the educational program. Employment shall be recommended to the Board at the next regular meeting.

☒ Wherever possible, positions shall be filled by properly-licensed professionals.

[x] No candidate for employment as a professional staff member shall receive recommendation for such employment without having proffered visual evidence of his/her certification or pending application for certification.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

If a staff member is a volunteer firefighter and has notified the Cooperative in writing that the staff member is a volunteer firefighter, the Cooperative may not discipline the staff member for:

- A. being absent from duty by reason of responding to a fire or emergency call that was received prior to the time the staff member was to report to duty;
- B. leaving the staff member's duty station to respond to a fire or an emergency call if the staff member has prior authorization from the staff member's supervisor to leave duty in response to a call received after the staff member has reported to work;

However, when an emergency call is received while the staff member is on duty, the staff member ~~should~~ shall notify the principal before leaving so coverage for the staff member's class can be arranged.

- C. an injury or being absent from work because of an injury that occurs while the staff member is engaged in emergency firefighting or other emergency response, provided the staff member's absence from work due to each instance of emergency firefighting activity or other emergency response does not exceed six (6) months from the date of injury.

[x] The Cooperative ~~() may~~ **(x)** shall **[END OF OPTION]** require that the staff member present a written statement from the officer in charge of the volunteer fire department at the time of the absence indicating the staff member was engaged in an emergency call at the time of the staff member's absence.

[x] The Cooperative ~~() may~~ **(x)** shall **[END OF OPTION]** require that the staff member who was injured while engaged in emergency firefighting or other emergency response provide evidence from a physician or other medical authority showing treatment for the injury at the time of the staff member's absence and a connection between the injury and the employee's emergency response activities. Any such evidence shall be retained in a separate medical file created for the staff member and treated as a confidential medical record.

The Director shall prepare administrative guidelines for the recruitment and selection of all professional staff.

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Legal	I.C. 20-35-5
	I.C. 35-44-1-1-4
	I.C. 36-8-12-10.5