

# Staff Handbook

Revised June 2016



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## **FORWARD**

This material represents the guidelines and policies that will apply to the Full-time Staff, Part-time Staff, and student workers of Piedmont International University. The Staff is defined as those persons who do not hold faculty status and who are paid by the University for their work.

Full-time Staff work at least thirty hours per week and fifty-two weeks per year. Part-time Staff work is routinely less than thirty hours per week.

Part-time Staff, volunteer workers, students, and others who may not meet the definition of “Full-time” may receive some benefits under some circumstances, but not normally so, and the granting of benefits on a limited basis does not constitute a precedent setting situation.

Students will not normally be granted benefits (except under certain very limited situations). Even though a student may be asked to work thirty hours or more in one week, even on frequent occasions, this does not elevate that student to a Staff position nor does it grant him/her benefits which apply to the Staff.

These guidelines and policies may be changed from time to time. The latest material as found in the University’s Infoshare (online policy and procedure portal) will apply. All Full-time Staff persons, Part-time Staff, student workers, and any other non-faculty persons will be covered by this material.

## FOUNDATIONAL STATEMENTS

### **Philosophy Statement**

We exist for the glory of God, recognize the preeminence of Jesus Christ, operate under biblical authority, adhere to our statement of faith, acknowledge the authority of the local church, and practice Christian virtues.

### **Mission Statement**

Piedmont International University is an established provider of quality, Bible-centered higher education for effective lifetime ministry. We are driven by our love for students and alumni and are committed to their success. We serve churches by equipping leaders to obey the Great Commandment and fulfill the Great Commission.

### **Vision Statement**

We will grow in influence to become an internationally recognized leader in innovative, Bible-centered higher education for effective ministry in a constantly changing world.

## BENCHMARKS OF SUCCESS

**God's Blessing** – we will actively seek the will of God, and the good hand of God.

**Theological Foundation** – we will equip our students to interact with a constantly shifting and pluralistic world by anchoring them with a literal, grammatical, contextual, historical hermeneutic for accurate Bible exegesis resulting in sound theology.

**Effective Ministry** – we will prepare our graduates to be powerful communicators who serve the Lord as preachers, teachers, authors, musicians, and influential leaders who understand and engage the culture for maximum impact in fulfilling the Great Commission while obeying the Great Commandment.

**Broader Influence** – we will actively seek, recruit, equip, and graduate increasing numbers of diverse students prepared to invest their lives in effective Christian ministry.

**Academic Excellence** – we will ensure that every academic program is Bible-based, challenging, innovative, and practical, preparing graduates who have communication skills, professional competence, and Christian maturity.

**Adaptable Culture** – we will foster an environment in which trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, and students model a biblical paradigm for ministry growth, adaptability, and balanced Christian living in a rapidly changing society.

**Valued Personnel** – we will provide meaningful employment by hiring, developing, supporting, and effectively utilizing a professional administration, faculty, and staff who demonstrate expertise, communication skills, unwavering commitment to the authority of the Bible, and godly lives.

**Financial Responsibility** – we will pray, plan, and work diligently to achieve and maintain financial stability and flexibility that will provide the resources necessary to fulfill our mission and vision.

**Attractive Facilities** – we will renovate, build, and thoroughly maintain facilities that demonstrate excellence while reflecting good stewardship and an eternal perspective.

## GETTING STARTED

Because of the students at Piedmont International University, many of whom are new Christians, and because of other Christians working here, every staff member must do what he/she can to encourage each other in the Christian life. Many of the students who may follow our example will be the Christian leaders of the future. All need a positive influence and we all need each other in what are frequently stressful times. The students need to see spiritual qualities in the Staff, as in the Faculty and Administration, which will help them to grow to spiritual maturity.

*The Roar* is a weekly newsletter prepared to advise everyone of the events of the coming week. This will help each Staff member to know what is soon to take place. Occasionally, there will be an announcement of a "Faculty/Staff Prayer Meeting." This means that while the students are meeting for a time of prayer, the Faculty and Staff are to meet for prayer in a different location, which will be announced.

Attendance at the daily chapel services is encouraged except in those instances where the work assignment is unusually heavy. The specific chapel attendance schedule for each staff member should be worked out in conjunction with the immediate supervisor. Please understand that if one does not attend the chapel service, he/she is to follow the regular work schedule. This time may not be used for any other purpose.

Normally, each full-time Staff member will be a member of a local church that is Baptist in doctrine and polity. New Staff members are expected to comply with this guideline within four to six months of employment.

### **Responsibilities**

A supervisor or another member of the Staff or Administration will provide the new Staff member with a written job description and/or a verbal job description outlining what is expected in work activities. The Staff member should feel free to ask questions to assure that he/she understands clearly what is expected. It is likely that further questions will be forthcoming after one is on the job for a period of involvement.

Everyone is expected to help other employees from time to time when the work loads require assistance. No one is to consider that he/she is limited to the particular assignment for which he/she is hired. Flexibility and a readiness and willingness to assist others as well as to accept help from others is necessary for accomplishment of the total work load. Acceptance of cross-training on other jobs to support this flexibility is expected of all employees.

## CONDUCT

Staff members are expected to follow the Scriptures to:

- A. Present their bodies and minds to the Lord (Romans 12:1-2)
- B. Make no provision for sin or the fleshly nature (Romans 13:14)
- C. Be willing to forego activities that may hinder a Christian brother, even though seemingly harmless (I Corinthians 8:11-13; 10:31-33)
- D. Yield wholly to the Lord and be eager to please Him (Romans 6:11-14)
- E. Respect and pray for those who have authority over them and to follow their leadership (Ephesians 6:5-8; I Timothy 2:1-3; Hebrews 13:17)

With these Scriptures in mind, the Staff is expected to refrain from:

- 1. Membership in or association with oath-bound or secret societies, the occult, or a lodge
- 2. Possession and/or use of alcoholic beverages
- 3. Illegal and improper possession and/or use of narcotics, drugs, and hallucinogens (including marijuana) or other controlled substances
- 4. Use of tobacco in any form including but not limited to: cigarettes, chewing tobacco, cigars, dipping tobacco, "Hookah" pipe tobacco, etc.
- 5. Immorality, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, and any other deviant form of sexual behavior
- 6. Possession or use of pornographic pictures, literature, videos, internet sites, or films
- 7. Stealing, lying, cheating, gossiping, backbiting, profane language, occult practices, and attitudes such as pride, lust, bitterness, harmful discrimination, jealousy, and an unforgiving spirit.
- 8. Attendance at night clubs, bars, and similar places
- 9. Inappropriate dancing
- 10. Gambling in any form

The Staff is expected to exercise restraint and Christ-like discretion in the selection of radio programs, television programs, general entertainment, reading materials, and recorded materials.

**The Staff should understand that complying with the requirements given above as well as abstaining from other unsavory practices does not guarantee nor necessarily indicate a fully committed Christian life.** Nevertheless, compliance with Scriptural guidelines such as these does indicate a degree of Christian maturity and shows a proper concern for others in the Piedmont family.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore, is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried.<sup>1</sup>

### THE GODHEAD

There is one and only one living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual and personal Being, the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe, infinite in holiness and all other perfection, to whom we owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. He is revealed to us as a Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

### GOD THE SON

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit without a human father, born of a virgin, and is truly God and truly man, that His deity is absolute, wholly unique, and singular.

### GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, who is the divine interpreter of the infallible Word, who convicts the world, regenerates and indwells every true believer, testifies of Christ, energizes, enlightens and constrains in the way of holiness.<sup>2</sup>

### THE FALL OF MAN

We believe, according to the teachings of Scripture, that man was created a moral being in the image of God after His likeness, but man by voluntary transgression fell from his original sinless state. In consequence, the whole human race was involved in guilt, making all mankind now sinners, depraved in nature, spiritually dead, subject to the powers of evil, void of holiness, positively inclined to evil, and hopeless apart from divine grace.

### THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of Christ; that this body, which was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, was a literal body consisting of flesh and bone and that He ascended into Heaven and "sitteth on the right hand of God" as the believer's High Priest and Advocate.

### THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that salvation, according to the Scriptures, is wholly by grace through faith plus nothing. This salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based upon the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Since the natural man is dead in trespasses and sins, at enmity



against God, and blinded by sin and Satan to his own condition, it is only through the operation of the Holy Spirit using the Word that man is brought to repentance and faith. No degree of reformation, however great; no attainment in morality, however refined; no culture, however attractive; no ordinance or ceremony, however ancient and sacred; no feeling, however satisfying; no sincerity, howsoever approved; no church membership, however authenticated, can in the least degree add to the value of the precious blood or to the merits of that finished work wrought for us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### JUSTIFICATION

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal, upon principles of righteousness, of all sinners who believe in Christ. This blessing is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but as a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other needed blessing.

#### THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

The blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel. It is the duty of all to accept them by penitent and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner except his own voluntary refusal to accept Jesus Christ as Teacher, Savior, and Lord.

#### THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that all born-again persons are eternally secure in Christ, since the Scriptures teach that our justification before God alone rests upon the finished work of Christ and forever remains the unchanging grounds of the believer's faith. This security is further guaranteed by the continuous High Priestly work of Christ in Heaven itself and by the work of the Holy Spirit who wrought in the believer regeneration and performs an unceasing ministry within his soul.

#### THE CHURCH

We believe that the church, the body of Christ, is composed of all those who have true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We further believe that the visible church or assembly is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, the true head of the church; looking to the Holy Spirit, the administrator, for guidance in exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in the believer by His Work.<sup>3</sup>

#### THE OBLIGATION TO HOLINESS

We believe that all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are called into a life of separation from the world to which they have been crucified by the death of Christ, and should abstain from worldly lust and such practices and habits as will retard spiritual growth or cause others to stumble and thus bring reproach upon the cross of Christ. The believer is called upon to walk worthily, keeping himself unspotted from the world, and to be zealous of good works.

#### THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD

We believe in the evangelization of the world, placing emphasis upon the task of reaching the individual with the gospel and its implications, and that no humanitarian and philanthropic schemes may be substituted for the preaching of the Cross.

## BIBLE INTERPRETATION

We believe in accepting the literal teaching of the Word. "When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense." Therefore, every declaration is to be taken in its primary, ordinary, literal, and its most obvious meaning unless the facts of the context and the well-defined laws of language clearly indicate the terms either to be symbolic or figurative and not literal. Whatever is not literal must be explained in the light of other passages which are literal.

## CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, which teaches that all things found their origin in God Who created by His own fiat, instantaneously, every living thing after its kind.<sup>4</sup>

## THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe, according to Scriptures, in the sure return of the Lord Jesus Christ; that this second coming will be a literal, bodily, personal return; that His coming for His bride, the Church, constitutes the "Blessed Hope" set before us, for which we should be constantly looking. We believe that His coming will be premillennial.<sup>5</sup>

## ESCHATOLOGY

(1) The righteous dead.

We believe that the souls of those who trusted in Christ for salvation will go immediately at death into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the righteous dead at the second coming when soul and body shall be reunited to ever be with the Lord in glory.

(2) The unrighteous dead.

We believe that the souls of the lost remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the great white throne when the soul and body will be reunited in resurrection to be arraigned before God in judgment and then cast "into the lake of fire which is the second death" to be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power."

## SATAN

We believe in the reality of the person of Satan, "that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world."

<sup>1</sup> Inspiration is verbal, plenary, and the Bible is infallible and inerrant in its entire 66 books.

<sup>2</sup> Speaking in tongues is not for this age. The current charismatic involvement has its emphasis on experience and is in grave error.

<sup>3</sup> The two offices of the local church are pastor and deacon, and the two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's supper.

<sup>4</sup> Evolution is contrary to the Word of God, and proper Biblical belief leaves no place for theistic evolution.

<sup>5</sup> The return of Christ is imminent and will precede the Tribulation.

## POINTS OF CONVICTION

### A. Civil government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home, (2) the church, and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all, including the authorities themselves, are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 2:13-14)

### B. Human sexuality

a. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1, 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

b. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

### C. Family relationships

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the pastors and deacons of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for ministerial licensure and ordination by the church. (Gen. 1:26-28; Exod. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18, 22:15, 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 5:21-33, 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; I Tim. 2:8-15, 3:4-5, 12; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7)

### D. Lawsuits between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

### E. Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects,

gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5, 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24, 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

# **Personnel Policies**

## **EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP**

### **Full-Time, Part-Time**

A Full-time Staff member is one who works a minimum of thirty hours per week and is employed for fifty-two weeks of the year. (See the Forward for expansion of this description. Note that information given here is to be in complete agreement with that given in the Forward.) Those who work less than thirty hours per week and up to fifty-two weeks per year are called Part-time Staff.

Part-time Staff do not receive any benefits. Most Part-time Staff are paid at an hourly rate rather than on an annual salary as the Full-time Staff member.

Part-time employees who accept full-time employment will be granted service credit for actual continuous time spent in part-time and seasonal employment. Interrupted work periods will not be added together. In each case the credit will be based on the actual weeks worked regardless of the number of hours worked in any one week.

### **Student Workers**

Students are employed for work at the University to provide the student with the opportunity to earn money without having to leave the Campus. This is beneficial to both the student and the University, for the student receives the income and the University enjoys the benefit of the student's labor, loyalty, and knowledge of the student body.

Normally, no more than twenty-five hours of work will be assigned per week. For special reasons, the Administration may allow rare exceptions to this maximum, but it will only be on a case-by-case basis.

If a person who worked for the University while a student should come to the University on a full-time basis, even though there is no interruption of service, any benefits that would accrue as a Full-time Staff member will begin on the date he/she changes to the Full-time Staff basis. This includes consideration for sick days, vacation, etc.

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Piedmont International University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin in its staff employments practices. It does not discriminate against a female because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition. It does not discriminate against individuals who are aged forty (40) or over. It does not discriminate against qualified individuals because of disabilities. The University will attempt to provide “reasonable accommodations” to the potential employee in order to allow him/her to perform the “essential functions” of the job, and thus have an equal opportunity to qualify for employment.

## **NEPOTISM**

Piedmont International University will not offer staff employment to the spouse of any member of the Administration or Staff where duties, oversight, supervision, or responsibilities may overlap. While spouses of Faculty members may be considered for staff positions, those positions must not be under supervision of that Faculty member.



## **DISCIPLINE**

Piedmont's Administration will implement appropriate discipline with employees where it determines that such action is warranted. Although the employment relationship is terminable at will, at any time, either at the employee's option or at the option of the Administration, Piedmont may exercise its discretion to administer corrective action in cases where it deems it appropriate to do so. This may include various forms of discipline, such as verbal or written counseling, suspension, and/or termination. In addition, other actions that may be taken include transfer, reassignment, demotion, or other actions as the employer deems appropriate. However, corrective action is not mandatory or binding. Piedmont reserves the right to terminate any employee at any time for any reason.

### **Whistleblower Policy**

If any employee reasonably believes that some policy, practice, or activity of Piedmont International University is in violation of law, a written complaint must be filed by that employee with the President or the Board Chairman. It is the intent of Piedmont International University to adhere to all laws and regulations that apply to the University and the underlying purpose of this policy is to support the University's goal of legal compliance.

An employee is protected from retaliation only if the employee brings the alleged unlawful activity, policy, or practice to the attention of Piedmont International University and provides the University a reasonable opportunity to investigate and correct the alleged unlawful activity. The protection described below is only available to employees that comply with this requirement.

Piedmont International University will not retaliate against an employee who in good faith, has made a protest or raised a complaint against some practice of the University, or of another individual or entity with whom the University has a business relationship, on the basis of a reasonable belief that the practice is in violation of law, or a clear mandate of public policy.

Piedmont International University will not retaliate against employees who disclose or threaten to disclose to a supervisor or a public body, any activity, policy, or practice of the University that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule, or regulation mandated pursuant to law or is in violation of a clear mandate of public policy.

## GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

When staff members are concerned that certain actions are unfair or arbitrary, have complaints concerning working conditions, or feel aggrieved concerning other matters, the following procedures should be followed. Supervisors are responsible for providing staff members with opportunity to express opinions and to discuss problems and complaints. All supervisors are required to listen, inform, and counsel with individuals under their supervision and to make a sincere effort to resolve complaints and grievances promptly.

1. Whenever a staff member has a grievance against another employee, he/she should, in Christian love and forbearance, go to the offender in accordance with Matthew 18:5. Experience has shown that this procedure often resolves the matter, whether by clarifying a misunderstanding or bringing forgiveness and reconciliation after a genuine offense.
2. Any other grievance or unresolved personal offense should be discussed with the immediate supervisor. The employee and supervisor should make every attempt to resolve the difficulty in a spirit of open and informal discussion.
3. If on consulting the immediate supervisor, the staff member is still not satisfied, the next step is to bring the issue to the attention of the appropriate Vice President. The problem or grievance must be submitted in writing. Again, every attempt must be made to resolve the difficulty. The process should be documented.
4. If the decision of the Vice President is not acceptable, the staff member may appeal the decision to the President. Again, the problem should be submitted in writing and the process is to be documented.
5. The final internal step of settling a grievance is to appeal to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. The request should be made to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees in writing within seven days from the President's response. The request will be handled at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The staff member will present his/her case and then the President, representing the University, will present the decision of the Administration. All documentation will be made available to the Executive Committee. A simple majority decision will be final. A decision should come within seven days of the meeting and should be conveyed to the employee in writing.
6. If a grievance remains, all employees of Piedmont International University will be bound by the *Binding Mediation* policy outlined in Article XI of Piedmont's corporate bylaws.

## TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Should the University find it necessary to terminate the employment of any Staff member, the Administration will attempt to provide notice at least two weeks in advance of the termination date. Some circumstances, of course, may require immediate dismissal.

*Note: The employment relationship is terminable at will, at any time, either at the employee's option or at the option of the Administration.*

Should the termination be for poor work performance or for incompatibility of the worker and the University, an attempt will be made to remedy the situation by holding a confidential review with the employee and discussing possible solutions. This step does not have to be repeated but it may be if circumstances seem to warrant it.

If the Staff member elects to leave the employment of the University, he/she is expected to give a two week notice before his/her departure date.

### **Exit Interview**

Before termination of employment each Staff person choosing to leave the University is asked to meet with the appropriate Vice President to discuss his/her reason for leaving. This meeting will give the departing Staff person a final opportunity to express his/her feelings.

### **Severance Pay**

A Staff member who is leaving the University must meet with a member of the Business Office to determine the final date for employment and any holiday and/or vacation pay that may be due. These final payments will be in accordance with those other pertinent sections of the Staff Handbook. The final pay will be given at the nearest payday following the termination date.

## **PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

Each year, normally in the spring time, every employee will be evaluated by his/her Supervisor. This involves a self-evaluation and a Supervisor's evaluation. This evaluation is to aid the employee in the improvement of his/her work and to provide feedback on his/her present perceived performance.

*See the CAEF evaluation instrument.*

# Compensation

## **WAGES & SALARY POLICIES**

Salaries are paid by direct deposit and are normally disbursed on the fifteenth day of each month for the work performed during the previous fifteen days, and on the last day of each month for the work performed during the sixteenth day to the end of the month. Payments due on a weekend or holiday will typically be disbursed on the previous business day. Exceptions to this practice will be announced by memorandum.

Salary adjustments normally take effect on August 16<sup>th</sup> for Staff members (to coincide with new Faculty contracts).

The gross salaries of each Staff member are reduced by the legally mandated Federal Income Tax, the Social Security and Medicare Tax, and the State Income Tax. Other deductions may be made with the authorization of the employee. They include the employee's part of the health insurance coverage, employee contributions to tax-sheltered annuities, voluntary life insurance payments, and voluntary gifts to the University.

*Note: If a Staff member is exempt from FICA payments because of his status as a member of the clergy, he should advise the Business Office so that FICA payments will not be withheld nor paid.*

### **Reduction in Pay**

Under extreme circumstances, it may become necessary to effect a reduction in pay and/or a reduction in the hours of work. If such should be required, every effort will be made to treat each employee as equitable as possible.

## **HOURS OF WORK & WORKWEEK**

### **Work Hours**

The normal work hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with one hour for lunch from Monday through Friday. In some areas such as the Library, Business Office, Bookstore, Switchboard, and others, the hours of work will be determined by the Supervisor to care for the special needs of those areas.

Staff members may not start early, extend or shorten their lunch periods, and/or quit early without specific permission of his/her supervisor in each case.

Staff members are expected to be at their assigned places by their starting times. Frequent tardiness or exhibiting a lack of concern for the hours of work will be considered unacceptable on the part of the Staff member, and each member involved in such conduct should expect to have this addressed by his/her supervisor.

### **Break Period**

A period of time away from one's work is granted in the morning and in the afternoon of each day. Each period is not to exceed fifteen minutes. The Supervisor will provide a relief worker for those jobs which require constant coverage.

### **Lunch Periods**

Normally, a one-hour lunch period is granted each day. Some jobs may be better served if a different time is granted but it should be granted only if the University stands to benefit. The time of the lunch period may vary due to the requirements of the particular job or office. The Supervisor in each area will determine the times of the lunch periods and each Staff member is expected to cooperate with that decision.

The Supervisor will provide a relief worker for those jobs which require constant coverage. Under normal circumstances, employees are expected not to take their meals at their desks or work stations. When exceptions are for the benefit of the University, the person's supervisor may grant permission or request that such be done.

## OVERTIME PAY

The policy of the University is to avoid overtime. Occasionally, however, it becomes necessary to ask a Staff member to work beyond his/her regular work day. It is expected that the Staff member will take off a similar amount of time **during the same week** to compensate for the extra time that was worked. If it is not possible for the Staff member to take off a like amount of time during the same week, he/she will be paid overtime at the rate of one and one-half times his/her regular rate for the time in excess of forty hours worked in any given week (except for "exempt employees" as defined by the Fair Labors Standard Act).

Staff members should understand that the University does not wish to have anyone work in excess of forty hours in any one week, and that it may be permitted only if it has been approved in advance by the Staff member's Supervisor. Unilateral decisions by the Staff member, except in cases of clear emergencies, will not be permitted.



# **Employee Benefits**

## VACATIONS

Full-time Staff members are granted vacation based on the length of time that they have worked for the University and other qualifications listed below.

Vacation will accrue at the rate of one half day per month of employment during the first and second calendar years (not to exceed 5 days in a year). The third through the fifth calendar year of service he/she may receive two weeks. Beginning with the sixth calendar year the Full-time Staff member will begin to receive three weeks of paid vacation.

The specific time that vacation is taken must be submitted to the Supervisor, in writing, and must be approved in advance. Note, however, that vacations are normally to be taken during the summer, between the spring and fall academic semesters. No vacations will be permitted the week of, before, or after, the student registration periods.

No vacations should be taken for a period longer than two weeks at a time. Exceptions to any rule should be rare and require the approval of the Supervisor and the President. The pay for vacations will be granted at the current rate and hours the person is presently being paid.

### **VACATIONS HAVE NO CASH VALUE AND MAY NOT BE CARRIED FROM ONE CALENDAR YEAR TO ANOTHER.**

Except in the case of an emergency the employee should not ask for early pay prior to vacation. Records for vacations, sick days, and days taken by the employee must be a part of the employee's personnel record. These must be reported by the Department Supervisor.

### **Vacations for Terminated Employees**

Employees who are dismissed because of budgetary or organizational changes will be paid for any accrued vacation time. Additional severance can be granted by the Administration. Employees who are dismissed because of violation of University rules, policies, and standards will not be granted any vacation time or pay from the moment of dismissal.

Since vacations are granted with the understanding that an employee will work the full current calendar year, the following applies to those who resign. If an employee resigns in good standing having given at least a two week written notice, exclusive of vacation, or if they provide notice acceptable to the University, they may be considered for vacation days. Vacation days, if granted, would be based upon the above schedule and prorated for the time they have worked in the current calendar year. No vacation will be granted to those who resign and have not completed twelve months of continuous employment at the University.

## SICK LEAVE

Sick leave is to be granted for actual days of sickness, doctor visits for the employee, doctor visits for immediate family members, and/or funerals for loved ones not covered elsewhere in this handbook. Under no circumstances may a person take a day off for other personal reasons and attempt to call it a day of sickness. Anyone who does this is subject to reprimand and possible termination.

Full-time Staff employees may accumulate sick leave days at the rate of one half day per full month of employment. No more than 10 sick days may be accumulated at any given time. Sick days may be taken in no less than half-day increments.

The pay for sick days will be at the regular rate for which the employee is presently working. This will hold true whether one accumulated the sick days in months of forty hours per week or for some other time frame such as months of thirty hours per week.

Should a person be sick for a period of more than five continuous normal work days, the University will pay him/her for additional days, only if the one who is sick submits evidence that he/she has been getting professional help from a physician.

If a holiday should occur during the time a person is absent due to sickness, the holiday pay will be paid for the holiday as usual and no time will be charged against the accumulated bank of sick days for that day.

Once the sick days are used up, no further pay will be granted for days of illness until further sick days are earned as described above. The only exception would be in the case of *serious illnesses* as described below.

During periods of absence due to serious illness\*, the full pay for the Staff member will continue for up to three months. After three months, the pay will be decreased to seventy-five percent of the normal pay rate. This diminished pay figure will be continued for another three month period and then the pay will be discontinued altogether. This will provide six months of some income to the ill person.

*\*To qualify as a serious illness, the Staff member must be unable to perform their normal duties and be required to stay at least one night in the hospital (or require continuing treatment by or under the supervision of a medical doctor or other appropriate health care worker).*

## FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

Unpaid leave for up to twelve weeks\* within a twelve-month period may be granted for the birth or the adoption of a child; for the care of a child, spouse, or parent, who has a serious health condition; or for the treatment of a Staff member's personal health condition that prevents him/her from performing his/her job. An employee must be routinely scheduled for twenty-five or more hours per week to be eligible and must have worked for Piedmont for at least twelve months.

In order to qualify as having a serious illness the employee, or the person for whom the employee is intending to provide care, must be required to stay at least one night in the hospital or require continuing treatment by or under the supervision of a medical doctor or other appropriate health care worker.

A certification from the medical doctor is required for the employee's personal illness and must include the date the problem began, an assessment of the need for hospitalization, and a statement that the employee cannot perform the functions of his/her particular job.

The potential leave – maximum twelve weeks\* – will be without pay, unless the employee has accumulated sick or vacation time. In such cases, they will be applied first and will count as part of the maximum twelve weeks leave time. Holidays occurring during the period of leave will not be granted. Any loss of time or reduction of normal work hours will be counted as part of the potential twelve weeks leave.

In the event of childbirth, either parent may be granted leave, but only one may be granted the leave if both are employed by the University.

The employee taking the leave will be granted his/her same job or an equivalent one upon his/her return. His/her pay will not be reduced unless there has been a general reduction during his/her absence.

The University will continue to pay its share of the health benefits costs while the employee is on leave, however, the employee must maintain his/her timely contribution to the health insurance plan and to any other plans which the employee normally contributes in order for them to remain in force. The University will maintain its normal contributions to any plan that was in force at the time of leave, but it will not pay for any portion of the employee's obligation.

The employee is requested to provide a thirty day notice of any intent to take a family or medical leave, if foreseeable.

\* In accordance with Federal regulations, an employee will be granted up to twenty-six weeks unpaid leave to care for a spouse, child, parent, or next of kin that has suffered a serious injury or illness while serving as a member of the United States Armed Forces.

## **PREGNANCY LEAVE**

An employee requesting leave for pregnancy related circumstances will be granted that leave in accordance with the current Family Medical Leave policy and the Sick Leave policy. The staff member should put a request for a maternity leave in writing to the appropriate Vice President as soon as possible. The recommended time is three months prior to the beginning of the actual leave. All benefits will continue during this period of leave.

## HOLIDAYS & HOLIDAY PAY

Full-time Staff members will be granted the following days off with pay:

New Year's Day	July 4 <sup>th</sup>
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Labor Day
Friday of Spring Break	Thanksgiving Day
Good Friday	Thanksgiving Friday
Memorial Day	Christmas Eve through New Year's Day

If a holiday falls within an employee's vacation period, the holiday may be taken at the end or the beginning of the vacation period or at another time, provided that the time it is taken is agreeable to the employee's Supervisor. When a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the University will specify the date that the holiday will be taken, if at all.

**Holiday pay will be based on the number of hours that the employee normally works per day.**

## EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

### Piedmont Classes

Full-time employees and their spouses may take two three-hour academic classes free of tuition (other fees and charges must still be paid) each semester, with the entire summer period counting as one semester, with the following stipulations. The time to take the class must be on the employee's own time. If the time of the class is during the regular hours of work, the employee must first receive permission from the supervisor as well as from the Administration to be away from his/her work station during that period. He/She must also receive the Supervisor's agreement as to when the time will be made up. Employees should consult with the Financial Aid Office for additional details and application requirements.

The dependent child of a Full-time Staff member may attend the University (up to 18 hours) free of tuition. Fees and additional credit hours must be paid for at registration. Employees should consult with the Financial Aid Office for additional details and application requirements.

### Non-Piedmont Classes

On occasion, the Administration of the University may ask Staff members to pursue additional education in order to benefit the University. In such cases, the University will assist with the cost of education in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. All funds paid by the University for continuing education will be considered a non-interest loan to the employee
2. These amounts will be forgiven, 25% per year, over four years of employment following the completion of the requested degree
3. The employee must sign a "Continuing Education Agreement" before the first class
4. A "B" average must be maintained throughout the agreement

*Note: Any outstanding loan amount must be repaid to the University upon resignation or disciplinary termination.*

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Any leave of absence not described elsewhere in this manual and not covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or the Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) must be approved on a case by case basis by the immediate supervisor and by the Administration of the University.



## **DEATH IN IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

A Staff member may be granted one day off with pay to attend the funeral of either spouse's parents, or that of a brother or sister. If the Staff member is required to arrange for burial, or if the funeral is more than three hours of travel away, an additional day may be taken with pay. Time beyond that may be taken only with the supervisor's approval and without pay unless the employee has accumulated sick or vacation time.

In the event of the death of a spouse, a son, or a daughter, the Staff member may have up to five days with pay. Any additional time may only be taken with the supervisor's approval and will be without pay unless the employee has accumulated sick or vacation time.

# **Group Insurance and Retirement Plan**

## HEALTH INSURANCE

A Full-time Staff member is eligible for health insurance coverage. In order to be covered without an additional waiting period or without having to submit to a physical exam by a physician, the intention to sign up must be communicated to the Business Office within the first thirty days of employment. Otherwise, an employee may only add insurance during the re-enrollment period effective January 1 each year, or within the following HIPAA guidelines:

### Rule 1: Delayed enrollment

If you initially decline enrollment for yourself or your dependent(s) (including your spouse) due to other health care coverage, in the future you may be able to enroll in this plan, provided that you enroll within 60 days after you lose other coverage.

### Rule 2: Life-changing events

If you add a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependent(s) in this plan, provided that you enroll within 60 days after the event.

The institution contributes a monthly amount toward the premium of health insurance and the remainder of the premium is withheld from the employee's paycheck. Of course, the group insurance is optional, but the University strongly recommends this coverage. You should consider the relevant federal and state regulations when making this decision.

Employees may include their families in the health insurance coverage by paying an additional amount as required by the insurance company.

Occasionally, the University will offer monetary assistance to help pay the annual deductible of the health insurance policy. This decision is made on an annual basis and applies to all participants of the group policy. If assistance is being offered, the employee should consult the Business Office for instructions in obtaining the available funds.

## **OTHER INSURANCE**

### **Dental Insurance**

A Full-time Staff member is eligible to purchase dental insurance coverage, including coverage for family. This coverage may be added anytime. The premium is withheld from the employee's paycheck.

### **Life Insurance**

The University carries a small life insurance policy on each Full-time Staff member at no cost to the employee. Additional life insurance may be purchased through the University's group plan. Additional insurance premiums will be withheld from the employee's paycheck.

### **Worker's Compensation**

Employees who are injured while at work are covered by the Workman's Compensation Laws. An employee who has been injured should report that injury promptly to his/her Supervisor. Immediate treatment can minimize the injury, help to prevent infection, and permit filing of the appropriate papers while the events surrounding the injury are still fresh in the memory of the victim. Treatment should begin with a local urgent care or emergency room facility. Worker's compensation insurance will typically reject claims from a primary care physician. (See Safety Policy in the Miscellaneous section)

## **RETIREMENT PLAN**

Full-time employees may elect to have money withheld from their paychecks to be contributed to a 403(b) plan account. The University will make a contribution matching the employee's contribution up to 1% of the employee's salary (rate subject to change). The current plan is administered by Guidestone Financial Resources and provides tax-deferred retirement savings. Ordained ministers may qualify for additional advantages. Please see the Business Office for more details or to sign up for the plan.

# Miscellaneous

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Sexual harassment is forbidden. This may include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature where the individual is made to feel as if he or she must agree to the request or submit to the advance in order to get favorable treatment at work. Sexual harassment also includes sexually oriented conduct and communications which unreasonably interfere with an employee's work performance or create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. This policy protects and covers the conduct of all employees.

## **DISABILITY POLICY**

Piedmont International University does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities (as defined by the EEOC) in job application procedures, hiring, firing, advancement, compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. The University will make every reasonable accommodation to provide an equal opportunity by:

1. Ensuring the accessibility of existing facilities
2. Restructuring/modifying a particular job
3. Acquiring/modifying equipment and devices
4. Providing other allowances that may seem appropriate



## **TECHNOLOGY POLICIES**

### **Telephones**

The telephones at the University are primarily for University business. When answering a telephone that belongs to another person, the Staff member should state his/her own name and mention that it is the desk of the other person. Offer to take a message being certain to get the correct name, telephone number including the area code, or suggest a better time for the caller to repeat the call. Place the date and time on the written message for the person for whom the message was intended.

Staff members may not use the University telephones for personal long distance calls without the specific approval of the Supervisor. After such calls are made, the Staff member is expected to pay for the call.

### **Email**

Use email whenever possible to communicate with other Staff and Faculty members. Check it regularly throughout each day. Employees should respond to all email and voicemail messages within one business day. Personal emails must be kept to a minimum.

### **Internet/Computers**

No unauthorized software is to be loaded or downloaded on any of the University computers. If there is software that you need, you may request it through the Director of Technology, and the appropriate decision will be made. The decision will be communicated to you in writing.

It is inappropriate to play games or browse the internet (unless job related) during scheduled work hours. Please log-off the network in the prescribed manner, especially at the end of the work day. Never stay logged on to your computer overnight, and do not turn off your computer without logging off the network.

The Director of Technology issues updated policies from time to time in order to keep up with the constantly changing field of technology. Those policies must be adhered to and are extensions of this policy manual.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Election Day**

Each employee is encouraged to vote in local, state, and national elections. One may register to vote in Winston-Salem at the main public library on Fifth Street, at any branch library, or at the Board of Elections.

No time is granted during working hours for employees to vote. If it is impossible to cast one's vote outside regular working hours, arrangements may be discussed with one's Supervisor to try to find time to cast one's vote. However, special time off is not guaranteed.

### **Appearance**

Office dress (including classroom dress) is business casual even during summer months and breaks. Dress for "Monday casual" is business casual or nice jeans (with collared shirts tucked in for men). Exceptions may apply for maintenance staff or those involved in maintenance-related activities. Questions should be addressed to the Director of Operations. .

### **University Events**

All Staff members are a part of the University family and as such are always welcome at University functions without special invitation. The Administration urges Staff to attend all special meetings, convocations, conferences, Candlelight Carols, commencement, banquets, and sports events.

### **Office Parties**

When a Staff member has a birthday or special anniversary, those colleagues in his/her immediate work area may wish to observe the occasion with a modest party. Such a celebration should be limited to a light dessert, cake, and/or a drink to keep such parties fairly equal in scope and to be completed within the normal fifteen minute break-time. The cost of such events should be shared by all who participate in order to minimize the financial burden of any one person.

### **Office Ethics**

If a Staff member has a complaint with a fellow employee, he/she should first take the matter to the Lord and if he/she feels the need to go further, he/she should go to the other person involved and attempt to resolve the issue. If the matter still seems unresolved, the Staff

member should go to his/her Supervisor and discuss the matter (see Grievance Policy).

### **Safety Policy - OSHA**

Every employee is responsible for safety. To achieve our goal of providing a safe and healthful work place, everyone must be safety conscious. Any unsafe or hazardous condition should be reported immediately to your supervisor. Every effort will be made to remedy problems as quickly as possible. (See Workman's Compensation Policy)

### **Jury Duty**

A Full-time Staff employee will be paid for the actual hours lost as the result of serving on a jury or for appearing for jury duty. Any compensation received by the court may be kept by the employee.

### **Cafeteria Lunch**

The University subsidizes a portion of the lunches for Full-time Staff members when the Cafeteria is open. Current prices will be announced each year via email.

### **How to Access other Company Policies**

[www.piedmontu.edu/mypage](http://www.piedmontu.edu/mypage) is a link to the "Faculty & Staff Access" page. Your login information will be provided to you and will determine what information is available to you on the site.

Piedmont's Policies & Procedures Site is a link inside of the page listed above and can expand on any/all policies and procedures. This is a dynamic, searchable wiki-based site that stores thousands of policies, procedures, handbooks, archives, etc.