

SIERRA STATES UNIVERSITY

Administrative Handbook

2018-2019

The mission of Sierra States University is to educate students to be leaders to serve communities and the world through the excellent programs of Christian Higher Education.

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INTRODUCTION

History:

Sierra States University was established in 2002 to provide programs that meet the needs of the immigrant community in the Los Angeles area. Starting from 2014, Sierra States University expanded its vision to serve students not only in the United States of America, but also to serve students globally. Sierra States University specializes in offering its undergraduate and graduate programs under the approval of the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Under the leadership of the Board of Directors, Sierra States University continues to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Business Administration.

Mission Statement

The mission of Sierra States University is to educate students to be leaders to serve communities and the world through the excellent programs of Christian Higher Education.

Institutional Objectives

To achieve mission, Sierra States University has developed following institutional objectives. At the end of the programs, students will be able:

1. To demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the Bible and an understanding of Christian doctrine
2. To demonstrate awareness and life-long commitment to personal, vocational and academic development
3. To demonstrate attitude of service and leadership in their discipline and community
4. To demonstrate basic knowledge and skills for vocational success and to enhance skills within their current careers.
5. To demonstrate biblical and ethical standards in personal lifestyle and career.

Values

Sierra States University's core values define the character of the institution and are active ingredients in all that the University does. Through our commitment to these values the University can better serve and be more responsive to its students, staff and community:

Community – Building a community of scholars and students where we encourage each other to grow academically and spiritually.

Leadership –Serving the community with integrity, respect and cultural sensitivity

Teamwork – working together to encourage input and dialogue in a collegial manner befitting higher education

Accountability – Continuously assessing where we are as a Christian institution and to assume responsibility for all that we do

Participation – Fostering and encouraging faculty, staff and students in various university decision-making processes and practicing shared governance

Excellence – Seeking high standards for teaching, scholarship, and performance with a commitment to continual development

Institutional Learning Outcomes

Sierra States University has five institutional learning outcomes that had been developed by the multiple stakeholders. These learning outcomes describe the characteristics that we hope and expect our students to exhibit by the time they finish their degree at Sierra States University.

1. *Critical Thinking* – Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills to analyze, synthesize and apply knowledge in familiar and unfamiliar situations to make informed decisions.
2. *Problem-Solving Skills* – Students will demonstrate problem-solving skills such as quantitative knowledge, computer skills and broad knowledge to solve problems and complete their tasks.
3. *Excellent Communication* – Students will demonstrate quality communication in the form of written presentation or oral skills.
4. *Professional knowledge* – Students will demonstrate professional knowledge and skills in their discipline so that they carry out their duties in their career and embody leadership in their major field.
5. *Christian Service* – Students will apply their biblical knowledge and theological perspective to balance their life and apply Christian leadership in civil life and community service.

Biblical Foundation Statement

We believe that the Scripture of the Old and New Testament are the inspired, the only infallible, and authoritative word of God.

We believe that there is one God, creator of heaven and earth, eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that God has revealed Himself and His Truth in the created order, in the Scriptures, and supremely in Jesus Christ.

We believe that God has created humanity in His image and likeness, but the disobedience of Adam, all humankind was alienated from God and lost.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the messiah, the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who died on the cross, was physically resurrected from the dead, ascended into heaven, and will one day return in His glory to reign upon the earth.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells and gives life to believers, enables them to understand the Scriptures, empowers them for godly living and equips them for service and witness.

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ and that the people of God are called to community, worship, discipleship, mission, and education.

Accreditation Status

TRACS Candidate Status

Sierra States University is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), [15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: (434) 525-9539; e-mail: info@tracs.org] having been awarded Candidate Status as a Category IV institution by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on Oct 24, 2017. This status is effective for a period of up to five years. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

ORGANIZATION & ADMINISTRATION

Brief Job Descriptions of Administrators

Administrative Office	Description
President	Directs the entire institution, represents the school to the public and the board, carries out decisions of the Executive Board
Dean of Academic Affairs	Supports the President & directs undergraduate academic programs.
Dean of Student Affairs	Supports the President & directs student affairs
Director of Business Affairs	Supports the President & directs daily operations.
Director of Institutional Research	Supports the President & directs Institutional Research department
Librarian	Supports the Dean of Academics & directs the library
Registrar	Supports the Dean of Academics & directs the registrar works
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	Supports The Dean of Business Affairs & manages finance and accounting.
Director of International Student Services	Supports the Dean of Academics & directs the registrar works
Director of Admissions	Supports the Dean of Academics & directs the affairs of the Admissions office
Director of Student Accounts	Supports The Director of Business Affairs & is responsible for the billing and collection of student tuition and fees, as well as the disbursement of financial aid funds.
Others	See the expanded job description in the handbook

Expanded Job Descriptions of Administrators

President

The President of Sierra States University is also its Chief Executive Officer. The President reports to the governing board and supervises planning, financial, and administrative activities. He or she directly supervises the DBA and Dean of Academic Affairs.

Qualifications

1. An earned doctorate or its equivalent
2. Demonstrated leadership and inter-personal skills
3. A recognized leader in the international evangelical Christian community.
4. Strong communication skills
5. Demonstrate a lifestyle reflective of the mission of Sierra States University

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Work with the constituency, administration, and especially the board in determining the purpose and direction of the school
2. See that the University is faithful to the fulfillment of its mission
3. Serve as the sole, official liaison between the board and the University (but the President or board may invite other members of the University community to consult with or report to the board)
4. Recommend appointment of full-time faculty and administrators to the board
5. Represent the University to internal and external constituencies as well as to the larger public
6. Cultivate alumni, community leaders, churches and others as friends of the University
7. Develop the financial resources needed to accomplish the goals of the school
8. Promote the cause of the University and initiate necessary communication with other college or organization for its linkage and relation.
9. Receive and review the reports of the Deans
10. Perform any other duties pertaining to the office of the President which are not specifically described above, but are assigned by the Board of Directors

Appointment

The President shall be appointed directly by the Board of Directors for a renewable term of four years. The President is directly accountable to the Board of Directors and works with the Board of Directors to perform all of his assigned duties.

Performance Evaluation

Each year the President goes through a process of evaluation by the Board of Directors based on his performance in the following areas:

1. Attainment of institutional mission and goals
2. Development of Financial Resources (e.g. from the boards, constituencies, alumni, foundations)

3. Financial performance of the University as a whole (e.g. development and operation of an appropriate budget)
4. Recruitment, supervision, evaluation, of dean of students, dean of academic affairs, director of business affairs.
5. Other related duties and responsibilities

Dean of Academic Affairs

The Dean of Academic Affairs is the chief academic officer. He or she directly supervises the registrar, director of library, dean of each school, director of language program, director of general education studies, and dean of graduate studies. The Dean of Academic Affairs reports directly to and is supervised by the President. He or she is advised by faculty committees.

Qualifications

1. An earned doctoral degree
2. Five years experience as a professor and/or in educational administration
3. Demonstrated management and inter-personal skills
4. Ability to work with the President
5. Strong communications skills
6. Demonstrate a lifestyle reflective of the mission of Sierra States University.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Supervise the registrar, director of library, full-time faculty, part-time faculty, full-time faculty of GE and faculty of graduate program.
2. Assure that an adequate system of registration & academic advising operates smoothly.
3. Recommend to the President the hiring, promotion, demotion, and dismissal of the registrar, director of library, full-time faculty, full-time faculty of general education studies, and faculty of graduate studies (i.e. before being hired, an applicant for any of these positions must have a recommendation from the dean of academic affairs).
4. Function as an advocate of the faculty.
5. Maintain high morale and healthy working relationships within the university.
6. Plan and operate academic programs for the University (e.g. plan curriculum, schedule and staff classes, maintain and improve the academic integrity and standards of the University).
7. Oversee faculty committee assignments
8. Work with faculty committees and the director of faculty development
9. Give leadership to the process of achieving licensure
10. Represent the University in all governmental matters as directed by the President, maintain proper compliance with governmental regulations and licensing agencies as well as accreditation agencies. He or she shall establish and maintain proper relations with academic communities and other institutions.
11. See that the school continues to fulfill its mission statement, goals, and policies that are directed by president and determined by the board of directors
12. Maintain records of written student complaints regarding academic matters, faculty matters, or related issues
13. Teach courses as needed
14. Make an annual report to the President and the Board of Directors.
15. Prepare and oversee budget for academic affairs
16. Recommend to the President and Board of Directors candidates for the conferring of all academic degrees and diplomas.

Appointment

The Dean of Academic Affairs shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the President

Performance Evaluation

Each year the Dean of Academic Affairs goes through a process of evaluation by the President based on his/her performance.

Librarian

Librarian performs professional and administrative duties in planning, developing, implementing and directing university library services. These duties include budget preparation, evaluation, personnel, collection development, community relations and facility maintenance.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A Master's degree in Library Science from an ALA accredited or equivalent program
2. Five years experience as a librarian
3. Ability to cast a compelling vision for the library in a liberal arts college setting, and familiarity with current and emerging trends and technologies in college and university libraries.
4. Ability to develop and implement effective strategic planning for both facilities and program, establish budget priorities, evaluate and supervise staff effectively, and demonstrate commitment to ongoing professional development
5. Ability to work with diverse populations who use library services

DUTIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES:

1. Administers library policies, makes policy recommendations to the university, provides staff support and information to the faculty and students.
2. Prepares budget for Board approval, monitors and approves expenditures as directed by the Board, administers gifts, state and federal money.
3. Supervises personnel directly or through subordinates; hires and trains employees; assigns and monitors work; evaluates personnel; disciplines employees as necessary.
4. Evaluates library services and makes recommendations for improvements;
5. Works with elected officials, school officials and civic organizations to develop programs and resolve problems.
6. Administers maintenance of library facilities and equipment; works with architects and planners on facility development.
7. Reviews and approves selection of all materials for purchase.
8. Participates in professional meetings, classes, conferences and workshops.
9. Participates in organizational management through the committee process.
10. Reads professional materials to update and maintain knowledge and skills.
11. Accountable for all activities, programs and services.
12. Performs other related duties as assigned.

APPOINTMENT:

The librarian shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the President.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Each year the director of library goes through a process of evaluation by the Dean of Academic Affairs based on his/her performance.

Registrar

Registrar provides leadership to plan, organize and manage all of the activities related to the Records and Registration Department and office of admission, including serving as the official authorized keeper of the university's student records.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. An undergraduate degree or its equivalent
2. Three years of direct experience or related experience in a related area
3. Supervisory experience in a people-oriented environment
4. Demonstrated understanding of the application of technology to deliver Records and Registration services.
5. A positive attitude and ability to plan and adapt to change
6. Ability to collaborate effectively with college departments and cross-functional teams

DUTIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES:

1. Supervise and evaluate the Records, Registration and admission staffs
2. Organize and administer the records, registration and graduation functions, including transcript evaluations, admissions and the certification process in order to provide maximum service to students while ensuring efficient and effective workflow.
3. Participate and serve as part of the Academic Affairs Team.
4. Lead initiatives as determined by the Dean.
5. Supervise the coordination, evaluation and certification of all graduation applications, while overseeing the complete graduation process to include all elements of the rehearsal and ceremony.
6. Responsible for collecting, recording, maintaining and reporting of student records within FERPA guidelines, e.g., grades, registration data, transcripts, mid-term verification, athletic eligibility and audits and other associated audits
7. Provide leadership and develop appropriate recommendations for the implementation of related technology application in support of enhanced services offered through Registration and Records
8. Develop and administer the departmental budget
9. Problem solve the research, analysis and resolution of student disputes as they relate to records and registration
10. Collaborate with administrators, deans, faculty, IT and counselors to facilitate and improve services to students, including catalog and registration/records policy questions.
11. Administer the collective bargaining agreement for the support staff contract
12. Serve as ex-officio member of Curriculum Committee

APPOINTMENT:

Registrar shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the President.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Each year the Registrar goes through a process of evaluation by the Dean of Academic Affairs or President based on his/her performance.

Dean of Student Affairs

The dean of student affairs is authorized to supervise student life and services. He or she is responsible for the administrative oversight of the Student Services, chapel and student government. Pastoral and Pastoral counseling and Career development are part of his duties and responsibilities. The dean of student affairs reports directly to and is supervised by the President.

Qualifications

1. An earned graduate degree or above
2. Three years experience as a professor and/or in educational administration
3. Demonstrated inter-personal skills
4. Ability to counsel students
5. Ability to work under the President
6. Strong communications skills
7. Demonstrate a lifestyle reflective of the mission of Sierra States University

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Oversee student government and other student organizations (including supervision of the social activities and budget planned by the student government).
2. Oversee new student orientation
3. Oversee student activities (e.g. field education, student governance, counseling, and career development, chapel)
4. Maintain student retention initiatives (with special attention given to students in their first year of study)
5. Oversee student counseling
6. Oversee student discipline
7. Maintaining records of written student complaints related to non-academic complaints, student code of conduct, discrimination, harassment, student life, etc.
8. Initiate relationships with all students and serve as a chaplain, counselor, mentor, and friend
9. Maintain and improve the student handbook
10. Prepare and oversee the student services budget
11. Serves as a liaison between the university and potential employer, provide vocational advising in consultation with the faculty of the field, offering career advising expertise to students regarding job search process, interviewing, resume, letter writing, and all other facets of career planning, and conducting workshops, seminars, and other presentations to students, faculty, and alumni.

Appointment

The Dean of Student Affairs shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Performance Evaluation

Each year the Dean of Student Affairs goes through a process of evaluation by the President on his/her performance.

Director of International Student Services

The Director of Student Services is authorized to supervise organizational, planning, and administrative duties related to student events, activities. The Director of Student Services reports directly to and is supervised by the Dean of Students.

Qualifications

1. An undergraduate degree or its equivalent
2. At least two years experience in educational administration
3. Demonstrated inter-personal skills
4. Ability to counsel students
5. Ability to work under the Dean of Students
6. Strong communications skills
7. Demonstrate a lifestyle reflective of the mission of Sierra States University

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Provide administrative support for the Dean of Students
2. Maintain good, friendly rapport with students; respond to student inquiries. This is a front-line position where excellent interpersonal skills are indispensable.
3. Assist new student orientation
4. Assist the Student Services budget
5. Utilizes SEVIS electronic tracking system for as management tool for international students.
6. Manages international student admissions (forms, required paperwork, documentation, and regulations).
7. Manages administrative operations including but not limited to budgets, assessments, compliance and records retention.
8. Complies with all regulation governing F-1 student visa.
9. Organizes, schedules, and conducts, in conjunction with Counseling Division, international student orientations.
10. Supervises the intake function and otherwise insures that students are assisted, when needed, with application and immigration paperwork, scheduling of academic counseling, registration, and other related enrollment procedures.
11. Utilizes internal partnerships for effective delivery of international student services.

Appointment

The Director of International Student Services shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the President.

Performance Evaluation

The Director of International Student Services goes through a process of evaluation by the Director of Business Affairs or President based on his/her performance.

Director of Business Affairs (DBA)

General Statement of Duties

DBA supports the President and directs daily operations. The DBA is responsible for overall administration and management of school. The DBA reports directly to and is supervised by the President

Qualifications

1. A undergraduate degree or its equivalent
2. Three years of administrative experience (preferably in educational administration)
3. Demonstrated management and inter-personal skills
4. Ability to work under the President
5. Demonstrate a lifestyle reflective of the mission of Sierra States University

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Organize and oversee the work of the personnel in Finance, Information Resources & Technology, and Auxiliary Services and Physical Plant departments who care for the physical plant, and office and other staff
2. Conduct an annual evaluation of the personnel in Finance, Information Resources & Technology, and Auxiliary Services and Physical Plant departments
3. Maintain and improve the administrative handbook
4. Recruit and develop personnel needed in various departments
5. Maintain high morale and healthy working relationships within the school
6. Participate in institutional planning and to assure the five-year plan is carried out on schedule
7. See that the school operates in a fiscally sound manner (e.g. within an appropriate budget)
8. Assist the President in seeing that the school continues to fulfill its mission statement, goals, and policies that are determined by the board of directors
9. Assist the President in his duties as liaison between the board and the administration

Appointment

The DBA shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the President based on his/her performance.

Performance Evaluation:

Each year the DBA goes through a process of evaluation by the President based on his/her performance.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

General Statement of Duties

The chief financial officer supports the President & manages finance of the University. This work includes development and operation of policies that result in safe and efficient handling of money, assistance with the development of an annual budget, and monitoring (i.e. controlling) expenditures to assure that various components of the school remain within budget.

Qualifications

1. An undergraduate degree and above
2. Three years experience in business or finance
3. Understanding of accounting and can use accounting procedures
4. Ability to use appropriate financial/accounting software
5. Ability to respond to common inquiries or complaints from customers, regulatory agencies, or members of the business community.
6. Ability to effectively present information to top management, public groups, employees of organizations and/or Administrator.
7. Demonstration of a lifestyle reflective of the mission of Sierra States University
8. A commitment to honesty and integrity

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Maintain accurate financial records (including exact records of all accounts of the general ledger)
2. Ensure protection of records through appropriate back-up procedures
3. Provide the CPA with data needed to perform an outside, opinioned audit
4. Facilitate and administer business dealings of Sierra States University, being careful to relate to vendors as well as those who pay for services (e.g. students, renters) in an honest and courteous way that reflects the character of Jesus Christ
5. Check that money is used for its designated purposes (including special donations such as endowments, and budgeted items)
6. Lead the annual budget process with input from all administrators who operate a budget, the five-year plan and projections of income (e.g. tuition, rent, donations, endowments), and expenses
7. Monitor the Sierra States University budget by releasing funds through budget request forms that show how much is left in the category from which funds are requested with the assistance of the budget personnel
8. Monitor the Sierra States University budget by producing monthly budget reports and by pointing out deficits with the assistance of the budget personnel
9. Administer payroll and benefits plans with the support of the Payroll & Account Payable personnel
10. Serve as a member of the finance committee of the board of directors
11. Manage investments according to direction of finance committee
12. Review cash flow daily, including review of payables with the assistance of the Payroll & Account Payable personnel
13. Review student receivables and delinquencies monthly with the assistance of the Tuitions and Fees personnel

14. See that notices are sent each month to students and others who are delinquent in payment

Appointment

The CFO shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the DBA based on his/her performance.

Performance Evaluation:

Each year the CFO goes through a process of evaluation by President based on his/her performance.

Director of Institutional Research

The director of Institutional Research will lead and manage a comprehensive institutional research program that supports the University's Mission and strategic planning process. Reporting to the President, the director will also provide leadership in accreditation, institutional effectiveness and program assessment.

Qualifications:

1. A graduate degree and above
2. Three years experience in related fields
3. Must have knowledge of and experience in the use of statistical and research procedures and the ability to use a variety of software programs for administrative applications.
4. Effective oral/written communication and ability to work collaboratively across all divisions.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Provide oversight and support for institutional and programmatic accreditation.
2. Maintain knowledge of accreditation policies and procedures.
3. Provide research support for ongoing activities in program assessment.
4. Analyze data summaries and develop appropriate research approaches to address significant issues.
5. Work collaboratively with institutional leadership to translate research findings into actionable strategic initiatives.
6. Provide leadership for the development of systems designed to assess institutional effectiveness.
7. Prepare environmental scanning reports to inform University planning assumptions particularly as it relates to enrollment and academic program planning.
8. Prepare and make presentations to internal and external stakeholders implications of survey and research findings.
9. Serve as facilitator and/or liaison to various committees and task forces
10. Perform other related duties as assigned.

Appointment

The Director of Institutional Research shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors.

Performance Evaluation

Each year the Director of Institutional Research goes through a process of evaluation by the President based on his/her performance.

Director of Admissions

Reporting to the President, the Director of Admissions provides the strategic direction and leadership for results-oriented admissions of considerable skill and innovation that is consistent with the goals and mission of the school.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. An undergraduate degree or its equivalent
2. Three years of direct experience or related experience in a related area
3. Supervisory experience in a people-oriented environment
4. A positive attitude and ability to plan and adapt to change
5. Ability to collaborate effectively with college departments and cross-functional teams

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Most important will be the personal qualities of integrity, intellectual curiosity, exceptional interpersonal and communication skills, significant strategic and analytical capacity, technological savvy, a collaborative work style, and commitment to excellence that characterizes the school.
2. Oversees all aspects of student recruitment for an educational institution.
3. In addition to marketing his school to the external community, he establishes admissions policies and ensures each class is filled with the appropriate number of qualified students.
4. Develops and implements all admissions goals
5. Develops and implements all admissions goals and strategy, working closely with the leadership of her institution.
6. Develops a marketing campaign that relays the school's mission to prospective students.
7. Recruits and hires team members for the admissions department
8. Works closely with the heads of every educational department as well as the financial aid team ensures that the admissions process runs smoothly.
9. Participate and serve as part of the Academic Affairs Team
10. Provide leadership and develop appropriate recommendations for the implementation of related technology application in support of enhanced services offered through registration and records
11. Develop and administer the departmental budget
12. Problem solve the research, analysis and resolution of student disputes as they relate to admission and student recruitment
13. Administer the collective bargaining agreement for the support staff contract
14. Serve as ex-officio member of Curriculum Committee

APPOINTMENT:

The Director of Admissions shall be appointed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the President.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Each year the Director of Admissions goes through a process of evaluation by the President or Dean of Business Affairs based on his/her performance.

Director of Student Accounts

General Statement of Duties

The Director of Student Accounts is responsible for the billing and collection of student tuition and fees, as well as the disbursement of financial aid funds, if any. The Director of Student Account is supervised by the Director of Business Affairs

QUALIFICATIONS

1. An undergraduate degree or its equivalent
2. Three years of direct experience or related experience in a related area (preferably in educational administration)
3. Demonstrated management and inter-personal skills
4. Supervisory experience in a people-oriented environment
5. Demonstrated understanding of the application of technology to deliver financial records related to registration services.
6. Ability to collaborate effectively with college departments and cross-functional teams
7. Ability to work under the President
8. Demonstrate a lifestyle reflective of the mission of Sierra States University

DUTIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES:

1. Supervise and evaluate the financial records related to registration and enrollment of students
2. Participate and serve as part of the Business Affairs Team.
3. Lead initiatives as determined by the Dean.
4. Assist the Registrar and Student Affairs staff with the coordination, evaluation and certification of all graduation applications, while overseeing the complete graduation process to include all elements of the rehearsal and ceremony.
5. Responsible for collecting, recording, maintaining and reporting of student records within FERPA guidelines, e.g., grades, registration data, transcripts, mid-term verification, athletic eligibility and audits and other associated audits
6. Provide leadership and develop appropriate recommendations for the implementation of related technology application in support of enhanced services offered through Student Accounts
7. Develop and administer the departmental budget
8. Problem solve the research, analysis and resolution of student disputes as they relate to records and registration
9. Collaborate with administrators, deans, faculty, IT and counselors to facilitate and improve services to students, including catalog and registration/records policy questions.

APPOINTMENT:

Director of Student Accounts shall be appointed by the President.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Each year the Director of Student Accounts goes through a process of evaluation by the President or Director of Business Affairs based on his/her performance.

Chaplain

The Chaplain serves as the University's pastor and collaborates with other offices and individuals on campus to support the religious and spiritual well-being of a religiously diverse University community. The Chaplain reports directly to and is supervised by the President.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Two years experience in a ministry position
2. Experience in individual and group counseling
3. Ability to work with faculty and students
4. Strong communications skills
5. Demonstrates a lifestyle reflective of the mission of Sierra States University

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Serve as pastor to the University community providing pastoral counseling and
2. teaching in the faith
3. Maintain a visible and active presence in campus life to enhance religious
4. understanding and promote spiritual growth.
5. Provide and promote pastoral leadership to support community involvement
6. Oversee and coordinates the activities of the various small group on campus
7. Participate in University ceremonies.
8. Supervise and direct Chapel

APPOINTMENT:

The Chaplain shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Dean of School of Theology.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:

Each year the Chaplain goes through a process of evaluation by the Dean of Student Affairs on his/her performance.

Preservation of Documents & Records

Document	Location	Who is Responsible to Maintain	Who Must Approve Revisions
Articles of Incorporation	Office of DBA	DBA	N/A
Bylaws	Office of DBA	DBA	Board of Directors
BPPE Documents and correspondence	Office of Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs	N/A
Three-Year Plan	Office of DBA	DBA	Board of Directors
Budgets	Office of the CFO	CFO	Board of Directors
Self-Studies	Office of Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs	DBA
Administrative Handbook	Office of DBA	DBA	Board of Directors
Student Handbook	Office of Student Dean	Student Dean	Student Dean
Faculty Handbook	Office of Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs
Academic Catalog	Office of Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs	DBA
Academic Journal	Library	Librarian	N/A
Sierra States University Newsletters	Office of CFO	CFO	N/A
Faculty Meetings Minutes	Office of Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs
Minutes of Other Academic Committees (e.g., curriculum, library)	Office of Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs	Dean of Academic Affairs
Library Committee Minutes	Office of Librarian	Librarian	Librarian
Board of Directors Minutes	Office of DBA	DBA	Board of Directors
Finance Committee Minutes	Office of DBA	Director of Institutional Research	Director of Institutional Research

Financial Policies

Projecting Income & Expenses

To develop the preliminary budget, three administrators (PRESIDENT, DBA, CFO) review prospective enrollment (and tuition revenue), prospective auxiliary income (e.g. rent), prospective donations (e.g. church donations, board donations, alumni donations),

prospective endowment funding, key needs, major expenses, upcoming projects in the new revision of the three-year plan, and the total amount requested through Preliminary Budget Request Worksheets. The total of expenses is not to exceed 85% of the anticipated income from tuition, donations and other sources.

Budgeting Process

The annual budgeting process begins in the second week of January when the CFO sends the following memo to all administrators who are authorized to manage Sierra States University funds (i.e. Dean of Academic Affairs, librarian, chief administration officer, program director, graduate dean, student dean, and chief financial officer). However, in keeping with mission and institutional goals, in fulfilling long-term strategic plan and engaging multiple stakeholders, the budgeting process incorporate grassroots input from every academic and administrative units, and gives priority to learning experience needs. Therefore, all administrators must share budgeting worksheet to every staff to collect input. Dean of academics also should engage faculty (both full-time and part-time) in collecting input to enhance the quality of the program and strengthen learning experience needs.

Preliminary Budget Request Worksheet

The following worksheet is provided in order to assist us in developing a budget for the upcoming year. Please complete and return this worksheet to the chief financial officer no later than January 31st. By February 15th, the Budget Committee will prepare a preliminary budget. After the preliminary budget is set, you will be informed of the proposed allotment for your department in the upcoming year. You will then have two weeks to comment on this allotment. A proposed budget will be submitted to the board in mid April. The board will approve a budget in April, but a revision will be approved (based on enrollment, changes to the three-year plan, etc.) in November.

1) Last year's amount budgeted for your department: _____

2) Were there any factors that made last year's allotment unusually large or small (i.e. purchasing expensive equipment, temporary suspension of a program, etc.) _____

3) Amount of funds from last year's budget still remaining (or over expended) at this time: _____ Please indicate whether this represents a surplus or deficit by using a plus (+) or minus (-) sign.

4) Will there be any factors that will make next year's allotment unusually large or small (i.e. purchasing expensive equipment, temporary suspension of a program, etc.) _____

5) What could be done to save money in your department or other areas of the University?

6) Amount requested for your department in the upcoming year (list subtotals in categories):

Sample:

Salaries of student workers	\$4800
Supplies & Phone	\$840
Professional Development	\$300
New scanner	\$300
Total	\$6240

	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$

After Preliminary Budget Request Worksheets are due, the budget committee (president, chief operating officer and chief financial officer) will have about two weeks to develop our preliminary budget. The preliminary budget will include proposed allotments to each department requesting funds. To develop the preliminary budget, these administrators will review prospective enrollment, revenue, key needs, major expenses and the total amount of funds requested through Preliminary Budget Request Worksheets. The total of funds for all departments cannot exceed 85% of the anticipated income from tuition,

donations and other sources. By February 15th, the chief financial officer will send a Preliminary Budget Response Memo to each department that requested funds (see below).

Preliminary Budget Response Memo

After reviewing anticipated enrollments, donations, key needs, major upcoming expenses, and Preliminary Budget Request Worksheets from all departments, the budget committee has completed a proposed budget. Below you will note the amount you requested for the upcoming year, as well as the amount allotted in the preliminary budget. The budget committee will meet in mid-March to finalize the budget. Therefore, if you believe that in spite of our school’s budget constraints, your department should receive more funds, please make an appointment with the chief financial officer in early March.

Amount requested	\$
Amount allotted	\$
Difference (indicate plus or minus)	\$

Please update your proposed amounts of funds in each subcategory and return this form by the end of the first week of March.

	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total	\$

During mid-February, the budget committee will complete their final proposal for the upcoming year’s budget. This budget will be submitted to the President (if the President delegated his or her authority and participation in this process) by the end of the second week of March. Unless the President requests further work on the budget, it will be submitted to the executive committee of the board of directors by March 15th. The board will vote on this proposed budget at their Stated meeting (May or June).

Purchasing

Any staff member who operates a budget may initiate a purchase if it is within his or her budget (i.e. is an item that has been budgeted for and if the budget has not been overspent). A purchase is initiated by submitting a Purchase Request Form (see below) to the business manager.

PURCHASE REQUEST FORM

Name _____ Date _____

A. Budget Code Number: _____

B. Budget Category: _____

C. Previous Balance for Category: _____

D. Amount Requested for Withdrawal: _____

E. Amount Available in Category (C minus D): _____

F. If the amount exceeds \$500 or if there is no money left in the category (i.e. line E is negative), then a signature from the business manager is required:

Business Manager

G. How money is to be distributed:

____ Cash

____ Check payable to employee

____ Check payable to _____

H. When purchase is scheduled and product or service is to arrive: _____

I. Remarks:

Note to business manager: a copy of the updated budget status sheet is to be given to applicant with the check or cash.

Note to staff member requesting funds: bring receipt to business manager as soon as possible.

After the scheduled date for a purchase to be made and product or services are to be delivered, the business manager is to check that the item or service was actually received. If an invoice comes from a vendor, the business manager is to check on this before writing the check.

Facilities Policies

Scheduling Use

To avoid double scheduling any room or facility, the DBA (or a delegated assistant) maintains a calendar showing reservations for using all campus facilities. Any reservations must be approved by the DBA.

Parking

Parking permits are issued to administration, faculty, and staff without charge. Three spaces are reserved for faculty who teach that day.

Vehicles may not be parked in the Sierra States University parking area at times when the owners are not working or studying at Sierra States University. Exceptions can be given by written permission of the DBA.

Maintenance and Inspection

Operation and maintenance of Sierra States University facilities is directed by the DBA and it can be assisted by professional maintenance or janitorial companies. A maintenance inspection is conducted weekly. Elevators are inspected on a regular basis. The health department inspects the entire facility monthly.

Insurance

Sierra States University carries comprehensive insurance policies, including school and building liability, fire, building, etc. Insurance coverage is reviewed by the CFO each November.

Disabilities Policy

The University is committed to complying with all the mandates set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act. Disabled students may make any request for reasonable accommodations to the Dean of Academics and are required to provide medical certification of their disability. In certain circumstances, early registration may be available for students with disabilities.

Personnel Policies

Employment

Authority to Employ

The board of directors is solely responsible to hire, and if necessary, dismiss presidents of Sierra States University. The President will recommend full-time administrators to the board for their decision on hiring, but the President may decide on hiring part-time administrators. Full-time faculty will be recommended to the board by the President after the Dean of Academic Affairs recommends them to the President. The Dean of Academic Affairs may decide on hiring part-time faculty.

Terms of Office

The term of the President is four years and the term of other staff is one year, or as determined by the board. The term can be repeated.

Re-appointment and Removal

Administrators can be re-appointed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. In the unusual event that the board feels an administrator needs to be removed in the midst of a term of service, this can be done by a majority vote of the Board of Directors (however, due-process policies must carefully be adhered to).

Non-Discrimination Policy

Sierra States University, in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1994 and Title IX of the educational amendments of 1974, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in any of its policies, practices or procedures.

Equal Opportunity Policy

Sierra States University affirms that spiritual unity among all its employees and students is essential to the fulfillment of its mission (1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1-4, 16). Sierra States University further affirms that all men are created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27) and, therefore, are to be afforded equal opportunity as follows:

In administration of its educational, admissions, and employment policies, scholarships and loan programs, athletic and other school programs, job recruitment, hiring and promotion policies, and employment benefits, Sierra States University shall:

1. Determine that each student is committed to receiving an education in accordance with Sierra States University's doctrinal statement and that each employee of the University and each student of the University profess the Christian faith in word and deed, recognizing that Christ has commissioned each of His followers to evangelize the world and to disciple fellow believers (Matt. 28: 18-20), that God has commanded His followers to carry out this commission corporately with fellow believers only (2 Cor. 6:1, 14-18), that God has determined that each follower plays an integral part in the fulfillment of this commission no matter what his particular job may be (1 Cor. 12:12, 18, 20-25), and that Sierra States University has been organized and staffed accordingly.
2. Afford equal opportunity to applicants, students and employees without regard to color, race, or national or ethnic origin, recognizing that all mankind is of one blood, being descendants of Adam (Acts 17:26).
3. Afford equal opportunity to applicants, students and employees without regard to gender and consistent with a scriptural family policy, recognizing that God created mankind male and female (Gen. 1:27) (as determined at birth and not subject to change), and recognizing that God instituted and defined the family as the primary civil institution of human governance, designating a specific authority structure within the home (Eph. 5:22-23; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).

4. Base decisions upon a person's qualifications for the position being filled or the benefit sought, recognizing that God has gifted men variously, as He wills (Ex. 35:30, 36:2; 1 Cor. 12:6-11; Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:11-13).

5. Afford equal opportunity to applicants, students and employees without regard to age or physical or mental disability, unless such condition would impede one's ability to fulfill the demands of the position or activity under consideration, recognizing that age and physical or mental disability can interfere with one's ability to fulfill a particular responsibility (Deut. 31:2).

Employment at Will

All employees not under contract are employed at the will of the University for an indefinite period. Employees not under contract may resign from Sierra States University and may be terminated by the University at any time, for any reason. No statement or representation in this handbook or any other University publication or by any University employee should be construed as a promise or guarantee of permanent employment.

Conflict of Interest

The University expects that each employee will use good judgment, high ethical standards, and honesty in all business dealings with and on behalf of the University. The employee has a responsibility to avoid any conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest.

Outside Employment. Prior approval must be obtained before outside employment is accepted. Requests for permission to work at another job will be reviewed case-by-case subject to the following considerations:

1. Whether the outside employment will in any way lessen the employee's efficiency in working for Sierra States University.
2. Whether the outside employment is with an organization, which does business with Sierra States University or is a competitor of Sierra States University.
3. Whether the nature of the outside employment will adversely affect Sierra States University's image in the community.

Outside employment will not be considered an excuse for poor job performance, absenteeism, tardiness, or refusal to work overtime.

Employees who have accepted outside employment are not eligible for paid absence when the absence is a result of injury or illness associated with that employment.

Employment of Relatives

The University will permit concurrent employment of close relatives unless the employment relationship between relatives could reasonably lead, or appear to lead, to business related conflicts of interest, improper influence, favor or consideration. The

following are examples of circumstances in which the University shall not permit concurrent employment of close relatives:

1. Where one relative has, or would have, the authority or practical power to supervise, appoint, remove, or discipline the other.
2. Where one relative would be responsible for auditing the work of another.
3. Where other circumstances exist that would place a relative in a situation of actual or reasonably foreseeable conflict between the University's interests and their own.
4. Where, in order to avoid the reality or appearance of improper influence or favor, or to insure confidentiality, the University must limit the employment of close relatives of policy-level officers of other organizations or individuals with which it does business.

In cases where persons related by family or marriage are employed by the University, those faculty or staff members shall not initiate, participate in, or exercise any influence over decisions involving an individual benefit to a person related by family or marriage. Such benefits include initial appointment, retention, promotion, salary, leave of absence, and grievance adjustment. In situations where a conflict of interest might occur under normal operating procedures, the responsibility for the decision will pass to the next higher administrative level.

For the purposes of this policy, a relative shall mean husband, wife, father, father-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, grandparent, brother, sister, son, daughter, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, cousin, or grandchild and their respective spouses, whether the relationship is established by blood, marriage, or otherwise.

Independent Contractor Agreements

Independent Contractor Agreements may be made with approval of the President when the following prerequisites are met:

1. The University controls or directs the ends to be accomplished, not the means and methods.
2. The work or project is a "one time thing" not to be periodically continued throughout the academic year.
3. The individual develops and/or performs the service on his/her own time schedule and does not spend most or all of his/her time serving the University.
4. The University does not furnish tools or normal workplace.
5. The individual holds himself/herself out as available to perform similar services to the general public or other organizations similar to Sierra States University.

Services that do not meet the foregoing criteria may be arranged as temporary employment. The President must approve temporary hiring.

Independent contractors are not employees of Sierra States University and will not be covered by University insurance or other employee benefits. Neither social security contributions nor federal or state income taxes will be paid by Sierra States University or deducted from any compensation paid by the University.

The Business Administrator will automatically process payments as scheduled in an executed contract unless informed of changes due to incomplete or unsatisfactory work or for any other reason. Alternatively, department managers may reserve the option to prepare check requests for each payment due according to the contract.

Performance Review

Policy Statement

Each employee is to undergo annual performance review. The President will be reviewed by the board. If the President is not also the DBA, the President will conduct an annual review of the DBA. All other administrators will participate in a formal review each year. This review will be preceded by the administrator submitting a report to the DBA analyzing the administrator's achievement of the criteria listed in his or her job descriptions (see "performance evaluation"). These administrators will also submit a proposal for their own professional development in the upcoming year. All faculty members are evaluated by the Dean of Academic Affairs. Full-time faculty members participate in a formal evaluation conducted by the Dean of Academic Affairs. (See the Faculty Handbook for specific details.) Part-time faculty may choose to participate in formal evaluations. Student evaluation data will continually reviewed by the Dean of Academic Affairs so that he or she may consider these evaluations when assigning courses.

The Professional Development and Review Process has as its primary purpose the continual improvement and development of each employee's talents, skills and abilities as they relate to job performance. It is a process of on-going planning, review and development involving the supervisor and the employee, who together identify common goals, which correlate to the higher goals of the department and the University.

Overview & Guidelines

Reviews are conducted semi-annually in October (for the review period April-September) and in April (for the review period October-March) for all regular full time and regular part time staff. In an effort to make this process flow as smoothly as possible.

The April review will be comprehensive for all employees. Supervisors will be given the option to submit only the Self-Assessment and Job Description at the October review for employees they have supervised for less than 90 days or more than one year. This option may be exercised ONLY if there are no significant changes in the employee's job responsibilities or performance in the current review period and there is at least one full review on file in the President's Office. Goal setting may be done on the Self-Assessment (Part I) see addendum.

Since this is a joint, on-going process between supervisor and employee, there should be no surprises at the time of the review. Performance evaluations must be conducted in a private interactive face-to-face meeting with the employee and immediate supervisor.

A portion of the supervisor's responsibilities includes timely evaluation of each employee supervised. Therefore, satisfactory completion of performance reviews may be included as part of the supervisor's review. Those supervisors who fail to submit performance evaluations when due will be reported to their department/division head and to the President, and eligibility for salary increases for the supervisor and their subordinates may be temporarily suspended.

The President will review all evaluations in order to determine training and development needs from Supervisor's Requests. The President will assist in making determinations to:

- * Prioritize University training needs
- * Allocate budget to meet those needs
- * Out-source additional training
- * Designate individuals to receive training from an outside source who will be willing to subsequently train others.

All supervisors of regular full-time and part-time staff from each department must be trained in the Professional Development and Review Process. The Business Administrator will schedule training sessions for the performance evaluation process prior to the due date of each performance evaluation.

Professional Development and Review Plan (See Addendum)

Part I-- Self- Assessment

All employees will complete the Self-Assessment (Part I) portion of the Professional Development and Review Plan in April and October of each year. Supervisors should distribute the form to all employees allowing at least one week for completion. This item is a significant contributing element to the Review and Goal-setting (Part II) portion of the process, to be completed by the supervisor in April of each year (and in October if supervisor has supervised the employee at least 90 days but less than one year. This option may be exercised ONLY if there are no significant changes in the employee's job responsibilities or performance in the current review period and there is at least one full review on file in the President's Office. Goal setting may be done on the Self-Assessment (Part I).

Supervisors may signify agreement with proposed goals, write in additional goals, and make written comments as appropriate, on the Self-Assessment. If this method is used, a copy of the Self-Assessment must be returned to the employee with supervisor's comments. Alternatively, a separate goals sheet may be attached showing goals agreed upon by both employee and supervisor.

Part II -- Review and Goal-Setting

The Review and Goal-setting section will be completed on all employees at least once a year. This must occur for the April review. It is optional for the October review for employees supervised by the same evaluator for less than 90 days or more than one year. This option may be exercised ONLY if there are no significant changes in the employee's job responsibilities or performance in the current review period and there is at least one full review on file in the President's Office. Goal-setting may be done on the Self-Assessment (Part I).

Supervisor will complete the instrument using the employee's Self-Assessment, performance logs and any other materials that will support evaluative comments. The "Supervision" element may not be applicable to all employees.

All employees must sign the evaluation and receive a copy. The signature indicates only that the supervisor discussed the review with the employee and does not necessarily signify concurrence. The employee may submit a written response, to be attached to the review or forwarded to The Office of the President separately.

Job Description

Each employee's Job Description will be reviewed, and revised as needed, at each six-month review period. The employee and the supervisor will sign it to signify agreement on the current and growing responsibilities. A signed copy will be forwarded to the Office of the President with the Professional Development and Review Plan.

A recommended Job Description format is included at the end of the Performance Evaluation Form. Use it as a guide, and not as a fill-in-the-blanks form. The

recommended format has been designed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as it pertains to written job descriptions.

Supervisor's Request (optional)

The Supervisor's Request is optional, to be used as needed. The Supervisor's Request will be submitted with the completed evaluation only if the Position Title or Job Grade needs to be changed, or if a wage or salary adjustment is needed, or if there is a training need that cannot be met by the department.

Policy on Access to and Maintenance of Personnel Files

A personnel file on each active employee will be maintained in the Office of the President. Personnel files are official records belonging to the University and maintained by the University for the purpose of administering its personnel program. All personnel records maintained by the Office of the President are official University records. The Office of the President is responsible for maintaining personnel records, and for adding, correcting or removing materials from the files. The Office of the President is also responsible for custody of the files and this office alone shall determine the information to be placed in the files.

It is the responsibility of each employee to keep the University advised of any changes in name, address or telephone number. Employees must also inform the Office of the President and the Business Administrator when changes occur which affect tax withholding deductions, or benefits coverage (e.g. marital status, number of dependents).

The individual personnel file will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

1. Information pertaining to bona fide occupational qualifications such as employment application, resume, transcripts.
2. Personnel actions such as appointment, change of status, promotion and history of changes in title and salary.
3. Performance evaluations and merit increase, transfer and promotion recommendations.
4. Documentation of discipline matters.
5. Awards, records of training, and service to outside organizations and professional associations.
6. Internal correspondence concerning the employee.
7. Insurance forms, retirement plan forms, tax forms, and other materials necessary for the administration of employee benefits.
8. Employment Eligibility Verification (Federal Government Form I-9).
9. Personal information data sheet.

A personnel file may contain personal data as well as employment information. The Office of the President regards this information as highly confidential. Under certain conditions, personnel files shall be made available to individuals having a bona fide need to review them as determined by the President, in accordance with the following provisions:

Employees may review their personnel file. A request to review one's file shall be made in writing in advance to the President. The review of the file shall be made during the regular business hours of the Office of the President. A representative of the Office of the President shall be present during the review of the file. Employees may attach their own comments to any materials in their file.

Requests by an employee or his/her designated representative for copies of personnel records will be honored at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of duplication. Handwritten notes may be made, but the file or any portions thereof shall not be removed from the Office of the President.

Supervisors or administrators shall have access to the personnel files of employees in their areas of responsibility on a need-to-know basis.

University employees carrying out the official functions of the University may be allowed access to information in personnel files, to include only that information necessary to carry out those official functions.

Personnel files may be reviewed by persons outside the University with the consent of the employee or upon presentation to the Office of the President of a duly processed subpoena or other legal order, provided, in the latter instance, that a reasonable effort is made by the University to notify the employee of the order in advance of compliance.

General personnel information is made available to governmental and accrediting agencies. Salary information about positions, but without identifying the salaries of specific employees, may be made available to appropriate governmental and accrediting agencies, as well as professional organizations. Such information is made available, however, with a restriction against publication, except in a composite report showing salary ranges or averages, but not individual salaries.

Verification of employment, title and length of service is made available to credit agencies, retail stores, insurance companies, and other institutions and agents, which extend credit or check credit standing. Salary information is not released unless the employee or former employee has given written permission for its release.

Non-derogatory public information, which is already published, such as information contained in University or local telephone directories or in University catalogs, may be divulged unless the employee has specifically requested otherwise.

Forwarding addresses and telephone numbers and unlisted telephone numbers will not be released externally; however, the Office of the President may offer to contact an employee or former employee in order to pass on a message.

A former employee's personnel file will be maintained in the Office of the President three years after termination of employment then transferred to storage for an additional four years.

Promotions and Transfers

In the recruitment of personnel to fill vacancies or new positions, employees shall be given the opportunity, along with other applicants, to be considered for positions that would represent promotion. Transfers to lateral or lower positions will be considered where such transfers may serve to alleviate undue personal hardships or for other compelling reasons. All requests for promotion or transfer should be directed to the Office of the President. A performance evaluation no more than six months old must be on file in the Office of the President in order for a request for promotion to be considered.

Generally, employees are expected to have performed satisfactorily in their present position for a minimum of six months before being considered for promotion or transfer outside the department.

Before employees may be interviewed and otherwise formally considered for promotion or transfer, the employee's immediate supervisor must be notified.

Student Employment

To learn about vacancies or to apply for a position while a student at Sierra States University, contact the Business Administrator.

Termination of Employment

Before leaving, a terminating employee is required to arrange for an exit interview with the Office of the President in order to clarify any questions regarding earned vacation, insurance options, disposition of retirement account, a forwarding address, and such matters. The Employee Handbook, I.D. card, keys, University credit cards, health plan cards and other University property must be returned at this time. The final paycheck will be released upon evidence that the above interview has been held, and that all University property has been returned.

Leave

Leave can be granted for various reasons. Sierra States University will refrain from replacing an employee for at least six weeks in any twelve-month period – whether or not those twelve months fall within a single academic or calendar year. Please note that the six weeks may not necessarily be continuous.

Sick Leave

We sympathize with employees who have difficult physical situations. Full-time faculty, staff and administration are granted up to five paid sick days per academic year if needed. Further sick days can be granted, but will be considered unpaid leave. Unfortunately, we are not able to grant paid sick leave to part timers.

Maternity Leave

We rejoice with families who are blessed with the stewardship of new lives. Up to six weeks of leave are granted to both new mothers and new fathers who are full-time

employees. For new mothers, up to three weeks will be considered paid leave and the remaining three weeks will be unpaid. For new fathers, one week will be considered paid leave and the remaining five will be unpaid.

Personal Leave

Personal leave may be needed for various reasons (e.g. funerals, family events, graduations). Full-time faculty, staff and administration are granted up to three paid personal-leave days.

Missionary Leave of Absence

Full-time faculty and staff who have been employed by Sierra States University for three consecutive years are eligible for one week's paid leave of absence during their fourth year of employment, as well as every second year thereafter, for missionary service. This leave of absence is primarily for international missionary service; however, domestic missionary endeavors may also be considered. Faculty requests should be directed to the President through the Dean of Academic Affairs. Non-faculty requests should be directed to the President through the individual's immediate supervisor.

Leave Without Pay

Any regular, full-time employee may be granted leave of absence without pay when approved in writing by the University president or (for faculty) the Dean of Academic Affairs. Leaves may be granted for reasons including the following: travel, study or research; public service; medical; maternity and infant care; active military duty and/or military training in excess of two weeks annual training duty. (See Military Duty Policy for policy concerning annual military training duty. See Family and Medical Leave Policy for eligibility requirements for FMLA job protection during an eligible leave.)

An employee who is granted military leave must apply for re-employment not later than 90 days after release from duty and/or in accordance with the existing Re-employment Rights Section of the Universal Military Training and Service Act.

A leave of absence without pay will not usually exceed twelve consecutive calendar months, but not more than 36 months in any case. An employee granted such a leave may be reinstated to the same or a comparable position at the end of the leave if he is in satisfactory physical and mental condition to resume responsibilities and such a position is available. Failure to return to work at the expiration of the leave will be considered to be a resignation. The effective date of termination will be the last day before leave.

Other employment while on leave is cause for termination unless specifically approved.

While on leave of absence without pay an employee may continue all benefits approved by the Office of the President, with no break in coverage, by making arrangements with the Business Administrator. Length of service will continue to accrue during the leave and any subsequent approved extensions. Employees will not receive pay for holidays

falling within a leave of absence. Vacation time and medical leave will not accumulate during such leave.

Legal Proceedings, Jury Duty, and Voting

Leave with pay is granted regular employees when their service on jury duty or as a witness is required, where the employee is not a party, provided official orders from the appropriate court are presented. The employee's regular University compensation will be reduced by the amount of compensation, if any, received for such services.

Employees of the University are encouraged to exercise their constitutional right to vote in all federal, state and local elections. Therefore, when normal working hours coincide with voting hours, time off for voting may be authorized by the immediate supervisor.

Holidays

The following days are typically designated as paid holidays: Good Friday, the Monday following Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and the day after Thanksgiving Day. The University is typically closed for two weeks between the Fall and Spring semesters. This period is considered to be a holiday for faculty and non-mission-essential staff and administrators.

The primary purpose of a holiday is to provide a day of rest and/or commemoration. If an employee must work on a scheduled holiday, every effort will be made to arrange for a compensating day off in lieu of the holiday as soon as possible, and preferably within the same pay period. This approach will always be primary, with payment for holiday work a last resort. Any holiday work must be approved in advance.

If the schedule of an employee calls for a regular day off (e.g. vacation) to fall on a holiday, every effort will be made to schedule the individual for another compensating day off in lieu of the holiday. If this is not possible, then an additional day's pay will be made.

Temporary employees are not eligible for holiday pay.

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Policy

1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the rights and responsibilities of Sierra States University and its employees as provided by the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), effective August 5, 1993. Compliance with the requirements outlined in the FMLA ensures that an employee taking an approved leave of absence will not lose employment because of the absence. Sierra States University is not required to ensure continued employment if an extended absence from work is not governed by the provisions of the FMLA.

2. GUIDELINES OF THE POLICY:

A. OVERVIEW

1. A family leave of absence, and/or medical leave of absence, is an approved absence available to eligible employees. An eligible employee is entitled to 12 weeks of unpaid leave during a 12-month period to care for:
 - a) the employee's newborn child or child placed with the employee for adoption or foster care,
 - b) the employee's spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition, or
 - c) an employee's own serious health condition.

B. SCOPE

1. The provisions of this policy apply to all family and medical leaves of absence, except those covered under paid employee benefit plans or policies. If the employee is requesting FMLA qualifying leave and is entitled to paid leave **all accrued and unused paid leave must be taken first**. Paid leave so taken will be counted against the employee's total FMLA leave entitlement. The employee will be notified that paid leave will be counted as FMLA leave within two (2) business days of making that determination. The notice will be confirmed in writing to the employee on or before the following payday.
2. The provisions of FMLA do not apply to employees eligible for Worker's Compensation. FMLA leave may run concurrently with a Worker's Compensation absence.

D. ELIGIBILITY

1. To be eligible for leave under this policy, an individual must have been employed at Sierra States University:
 - a) for at least 12 months, and
 - b) for at least 1,250 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately preceding the leave.
2. Subsequent eligibility will be determined by looking back twelve months from the first day of a new FMLA leave period, which is requested by the employee.
 - b) FMLA leave may not exceed twelve weeks in any twelve-month period, computed from the date leave is first used.
 - c) The determination of whether an employee meets the minimum service and hour requirements of the FMLA must be made by Sierra States University as of the date the leave commences, and Sierra States University will advise the employee whether he or she is eligible within two (2) business days after making a determination of eligibility.

E. BASIC REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF LEAVE

1. Sierra States University will require from the employee a medical certification to support a request for a leave involving a serious personal health condition or a serious illness of a spouse, child or parent. The medical certification must include the date the condition commenced; the probable duration; and medical facts regarding the condition.

- a) For the employee's own medical leave, the certificate must include a statement that the employee is unable to perform the functions of his or her position.
 - b) For leave to care for a seriously ill spouse, child or parent, the certification must include an estimate of the amount of the employee's time needed to provide care to the family member.
2. Sierra States University may, at its own expense, require a second medical opinion and periodic recertification. If the first and second medical opinions vary, Sierra States University may, at its own expense, require the binding opinion of a third health care provider, approved jointly by Sierra States University and the employee.
3. If medically necessary, such **leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced work schedule**. If leave is requested on this basis, Sierra States University may require the employee to transfer temporarily to a different position which better accommodates recurring absences or a part-time schedule. The alternate position will have equivalent pay and benefits. Expectant mothers may take intermittent leave for prenatal care.

The decision to grant leave on this basis rests solely with the President, based on a medical certification stating when the condition commenced; the probable duration; and medical facts regarding the condition. The decision as to a temporary transfer to a different position rests solely with the President.

4. When husband and wife are both employed by Sierra States University, together they are entitled to a total aggregate of twelve weeks of leave--not twelve weeks each--for the birth or adoption of a child or for the care of a sick child or parent.
5. Medical Leave, Vacation Leave and Disability Integration
- a) Employees requesting FMLA qualifying leave for birth of a child or for serious personal illness will be **required to substitute all accrued medical leave** for all or part of any (otherwise) unpaid FMLA leave. Eligible employees remain entitled to disability coverage; subject to prevailing plan provisions as identified in the disability handbook.
 - b) Employees requesting FMLA qualifying leave for adoption or foster care will be **required to substitute all accrued vacation leave** for all or any part of any (otherwise) unpaid FMLA leave.
 - c) Employees requesting FMLA qualifying leave for the serious illness of a son or daughter will be **required to substitute all accrued medical leave** for all or part of any (otherwise) unpaid FMLA.
 - d) While on FMLA qualifying leave, vacation and medical leave will not accrue. However, upon return to work, leave will accrue based upon established policy.
 - e) Non-health benefits will be subject to the same continuation policies that apply to unpaid leaves of absence other than FMLA qualifying leave.

F. EMPLOYEE NOTICE AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. When FMLA qualifying leave is foreseeable, an employee must give Sierra States University 30 days advance notice.
2. When such leave is not foreseeable, an employee must give notice as soon as practicable. According to the FMLA regulations, "as soon as practicable" means within one or two working days of learning of the need for leave, except in extraordinary circumstances.
3. If an employee fails to satisfy the 30-day notice without reasonable excuse, Sierra States University may, at its discretion, postpone the leave until the notice requirement is satisfied.
4. The employee will be required to report every 30 days on his or her leave status and intention to return to work at Sierra States University. This requirement may be satisfied by the employee's personally telephoning his or her immediate supervisor.

G. HEALTH BENEFITS DURING LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. Sierra States University will continue group health coverage for an employee on leave at the same level and under the same conditions that existed while he or she was working. The employee must contact the Business Administrator in advance or "as soon as practicable" following the start of the leave and arrange to pay the insurance premiums on a regular basis during the leave of absence.
2. In the event that an employee elects not to return to work upon completion of the leave of absence, Sierra States University may recover from the employee the cost of any payments it made to maintain the employee's group health coverage, unless the failure to return to work was for reasons beyond the control of the employee.

H. PROCEDURES

1. A "Request for Family and Medical Leave of Absence" form must be completed by the employee as part of the notice and reporting requirements (See E). After completing the form in detail and signing it, the employee should submit it to his or her immediate supervisor for approval. It should then be forwarded to the Director of Human Resources. The form should be submitted thirty (30) days in advance of the effective date of the requested leave.
2. "Certification of Health Care Provider" completed and signed by the health care provider must be attached to the leave request form, providing the following information:
 - a) the date on which the serious health condition commenced
 - b) the probable duration of the condition
 - c) the appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the health care provider regarding the condition
3. Additional information is required as follows:
 - a) For the employee's own medical leave, the certification must state that the employee is unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of the position.
 - b) For purposes of leave to care for a seriously ill spouse, child or parent, the certification must state an estimate of how much of the employee's time is needed to provide such care.
 - c) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced work schedule for planned medical treatment, the dates on which such

treatment is expected to be given and the duration of same must be stated.

I. DEFINITIONS

1. Medical leave - Accrued and unused medical leave as of the date of the commencement of FMLA qualifying leave.
2. Parent - The biological or legally adoptive parent of an employee or individual who stands or stood in loco parentis to an employee when the employee was a child. This term does not include parents "in law."
3. Serious health condition - means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:
 - a) any period of incapacity or treatment in connection with or consequent to inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility;
 - b) any period of incapacity requiring absence from work of more than three calendar days, that also involves continuing treatment by (or under the supervision of) a health care provider; or
 - c) a "chronic serious health condition" which
 1. requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider, or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;
 2. continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and
 3. may cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy).
 - d) Any period of incapacity because of pregnancy or prenatal care is covered as a serious health condition. This includes brief absences from work due to morning sickness, regardless of the duration of the absence and without the need to visit a health care provider.
 - e) Voluntary or cosmetic treatments (such as most treatments for orthodontia or acne) which are not medically necessary are not "serious health conditions" unless inpatient hospital care is required. Restorative dental surgery after an accident or removal of cancerous growths are serious health conditions provided all the other conditions of this regulation are met. Treatments for allergies or stress, or for substance abuse, are serious health conditions if all the conditions of the regulation are met. Routine preventive physical examinations are excluded.
4. Son or Daughter - means a biological, adopted, or foster care child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in *loco parentis* who is under 18 years of age, or who is 18 years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

Military Duty

Military leave will be permitted for two weeks annual active duty training. The employee will be paid the difference, if any, between his military compensation and his regular base pay. See *Leave Without Pay* for policies concerning other types of military leave.

Personal Telephone Calls

Personal telephone calls should be kept to a minimum. Business phones should not be used for personal long distance; however, when personal long distance calls are necessary, reimbursement should be made to the Business Administrator with the monthly-itemized billing statement.

Political Activity

Generally speaking, Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code prohibits Sierra States University from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. No funds or assets of Sierra States University shall be used, directly or otherwise, for the restricted activities described in this policy. This applies to domestic and international activity.

In keeping with Sierra States University's mission, the employees of Sierra States University, as individuals, retain all rights and obligations of citizenship provided in the Constitution and laws of the United States of America. Each employee is encouraged to be actively involved as a citizen by supporting the party and candidate of his or her choice.

Specific guidelines and restrictions relevant to Sierra States University, its officers, faculty and staff are contained in this policy statement.

1. Endorsement or support of candidates.

Sierra States University will not endorse or oppose, or provide support for or against, any candidate for public office. "Public office" includes, but is not limited to, all federal, state and local elective positions, delegates to party conventions, or any office of a political party. A "candidate" is someone who is, or is proposed by others to be a candidate for public office.

A. Partisan political activity must be as private citizens, not as representatives of Sierra States University. Campaigning, fund raising, solicitation of signatures, distribution of literature and other partisan political activities must be conducted on the employee's own time.

B. No employee of Sierra States University shall hold or be a candidate for public or political elective office at the federal or state levels while in the employ of the institution, or take an active part in a political campaign while on duty to perform services for which compensation from the University is received.

- C. Employees must obtain prior approval of the President prior to seeking elective office in local government or before accepting any appointment in local, state or federal government.
- D. Sierra States University will not make any contributions or expenditures in connection with any election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, political convention or caucus to select candidates for political office. Under no circumstances will expenses related to partisan political activity be reimbursed to employees of Sierra States University.

2. Political rallies.

Sierra States University will not sponsor or support, and personnel acting on behalf of Sierra States University will not participate in rallies or other forms of assembly at which candidates (or persons who may reasonably be considered to be candidates) for public office appear for the purpose of advancing their candidacies, or in which persons appear for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidate(s) for public office.

3. Political polls.

Sierra States University will not sponsor, conduct or provide financial or other support for any poll that may reasonably be seen as intended to support or oppose a particular candidate. This restriction applies to any poll that asks how an individual might fare in an election.

4. Voter guides.

Sierra States University will not produce, sponsor, distribute or provide financial or other support for any voter guide, regardless of content.

5. Mailing lists.

Sierra States University will not permit any mailing list owned or controlled by it to be used by, or for the benefit of, any candidate for public office or any organization controlled by or supporting a candidate for public office, including any political party or political action organization.

6. Facilities, equipment and letterhead.

A. Sierra States University will not make facilities or assets owned, controlled or operated by them available to candidates for public office or organizations controlled by or supporting such candidates for use in connection with their campaigns.

B. Sierra States University equipment, facilities or letterhead may not be used for any partisan political activity or the public expression of personal opinions.

C. Sierra States University systems, such as electronic mail and interoffice mail, may not be used for commercial or partisan political purposes or to promote political candidates.

D. Posting of signs, meeting notes, posters or petitions of a partisan political nature on Sierra States University property is prohibited. These restrictions do not extend to the wearing of political buttons on one's person or the placement of bumper stickers on one's personal vehicle.

7. Media presentations.

These restrictions are not intended to preclude or restrict Sierra States University, its officers, faculty and staff from speaking out on public issues of importance to its mission. These issues include, but are not limited to, abortion, sexuality, schooling, war and peace, crime, public morality, public finance, health, religious liberties, and similar issues of broad public concern and moral content.

Sales and Solicitation

Sierra States University specifically prohibits the solicitation of sales information and items not expressly sponsored by the University. There shall be no solicitation or sales of non-University sponsored items on school premises. Listings of University staff, faculty or students will not routinely or normally be provided to outside organizations, agencies or individuals

Professional Development

All administrators and full-time faculty are expected to continuously develop further expertise in their major areas of responsibility. For faculty, this expertise would be studies in how to teach more effectively. An annual professional development plan is to be a part of each administrator's or full-time faculty member's annual evaluation. A budget for professional development is provided to assist administrators and full-time faculty.

Conflict Resolution

In the event that an employee feels that he/she has been mistreated, wronged or harassed knowingly or willfully by an employee or supervisor, and that reconciliation by personal confrontation has been ineffective or would be inappropriate because of the nature of the wrong, the matter should be addressed to the next higher level of supervision and/or to the President. The Biblical processes of reconciliation defined in Matthew 18:15-17 and due process defined in Deuteronomy 1:17, 19:15, and John 7:51 shall be followed as they apply. The President should be consulted when questions of a legal nature arise and is available for advice and consultation on all matters relating to employee/supervisor conflicts.

If it appears that an employee has failed to perform work as assigned or that personal conduct is not according to requirement, the supervisor shall discuss the matter with the employee. The first objective is to determine if the employee understands the rules

involved or the required standards. If not, the supervisor shall explain what is required, considering any special circumstances that may have existed.

If the employee does not agree with or accept the correction of the supervisor, the matter should be jointly discussed with the next higher level of management.

If disciplinary action is deemed necessary, it may be in the form of warning, written reprimand to be placed in the employee's personnel file, making up of lost time, suspension without pay, withholding salary increases, demotion, or termination. The employee's signature on a written reprimand signifies receipt of a copy of the letter, and not necessarily the employee's agreement with the contents.

Tenure, Dismissal, and Due Process

Statement of Policies

Sierra States University does not grant tenure to any employee (i.e. faculty, administrators, or staff). However, Sierra States University does seek to meet the needs of faculty and provides due process and grievance procedures.

Theological Reasons for Dismissal

In matters related to significant changes in theological positions which are different from an employee's signed statement of beliefs, the employee may be required to resign his or her appointment immediately, at the end of the semester or the end of the academic year. Full-time faculty members with significant theological disagreements would normally be required to resign at the completion of the academic year. Adjunct members would normally be required to resign at the completion of their current semester assignment. Administrators would normally be required to resign at the conclusion of the academic year.

Other Reasons for Dismissal

In matters related to significant moral misconduct, a faculty member or administrator would be dismissed immediately. Such misconduct may include sexual immorality or harassment, theft or embezzlement, and submission of forged or misleading documents attesting to academic qualifications or previous professional experience or other qualifications for ministry at Sierra States University.

Contracts may be terminated for the following reasons:

1. financial requirements or budget problems
2. Moral inconsistencies
3. Significant neglect of duties
4. Professional incompetence
5. Behavior, attitudes or theological positions that are not in harmony with Sierra States University's written policies, standards, and ethical practices.

In the event that termination procedures for any of the above reasons (except 1. Financial requirements or budget problems), there must be due process through appropriate channels and proper warning procedures.

Statement of Due Process for Grievances, Disciplinary Actions or Dismissal

Grievances, disciplinary actions, or dismissal procedures involving faculty members or administrators shall be conducted in accordance with the faculty handbook.

Designation Of The Office Of The Dean Of Academics For Providing Instructions For Filing Of Complaints

At SSU, the Dean of Academics is assigned to provide any new faculty, students, and staff with the proper procedure and instructions for filing a complaint to TRACS and any appropriate government agencies. This is done at the new faculty, staff, or student orientation. The procedure is listed below.

Filing a Complaint

As per the CEC § 94909 (a)(3)(C), "A student or any member of the public may file a complaint about this institution with the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education by calling (888) 370-7589 toll-free or by completing a complaint form, which can be obtained on the bureau's internet web site www.bppe.ca.gov."

If you feel that your concerns have not been met, you are also welcome to file a complaint with the The Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS), by navigating to the following URL and following their procedures for filing a complaint against a member institution:

http://www.tracs.org/documents/2.ComplaintPolicyandProcedures_001.pdf

Sexual Harassment Policy

It is Sierra States University's policy to provide students and employees with an environment for learning and working that is free of sexual harassment whether by members of the same sex or opposite sex. College administrators and supervisors are responsible for assuring that effective measures are taken to implement this policy's procedures.

It is a violation of this policy for any member of the College community to seek gain, advancement or consideration in return for sexual favors, or to make an intentionally false accusation of sexual harassment. It is a violation of this policy for any member of the College to engage in verbal or physical sexual harassment.

Any person who feels offended by the behavior of any other person in the Sierra States University community is encouraged to resolve the problem informally before filing a complaint according to the enforcement procedures below.

Any person who has been accused of sexual harassment pursuant to the terms of this policy, who retaliates against his or her accuser in any manner, shall be charged with violating this policy. Any member of this College community who is found in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate sanctions, which may include discharge, expulsion or probation.

Definitions

“Work,” for the purposes of this policy, means employment-related activities carried out by College employees and College-sponsored activities carried out by volunteers.

“Member of the College community,” means student or employee, or an alumnus or volunteer involved in any College-sponsored activity.

“Sexual harassment” is defined as unwelcomed and unsolicited conduct of a sexual nature, physical or verbal, by a member of the College community of the opposite sex or same sex.

Procedure

1. Any member of the College community who believes that he or she has experienced sexual harassment as defined in this policy should immediately notify his or her immediate supervisor, dean or department head, the Dean of Students or the director of human resources.
2. Complaints of sexual harassment must be filed with the Dean of Students or the director of human resources within 180 days from the date the alleged harassment occurred. The complainant shall explain, in writing, the nature of the harassment and indicate what remedy he or she seeks.
3. The dean/director shall forward a copy of the complaint and a copy of this policy to the accused member of the College community and the appropriate supervisor/administrator advising them that an investigation of charges will be conducted.
4. If the supervisor/administrator is involved in the charge, the Dean of Students/director of human resources should choose another appropriate supervisor/administrator.
5. The supervisor/administrator, working with the dean/director, shall promptly and confidentially investigate the complaint. In determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the supervisor/administrator will look at the record as a whole and at the totality of the circumstances, such as the nature of the sexual conduct, the context in which the conduct occurred and the history of the relationship between the parties.
6. During the investigation, the individual accused of sexual harassment must be given an opportunity to respond, either orally or in writing, to the complaint.

7. After the investigation of the complaint, the supervisor/administrator may propose mediation in order to secure a written agreement that satisfies all parties to the complaint. (See Mediation Agreement in Appendix B.) A resolution by agreement of the parties may include the imposition of a sanction upon the accused individual, which the accused individual agrees to accept as a sanction.
8. If such an agreement is reached, a copy of the agreement shall be provided to each of the parties involved and the Dean of Students or director of human resources.
9. If, within 30 days of the supervisor/administrator's receipt of a complaint, the complaint is not resolved, the Dean of Students or director of human resources shall notify the parties, in writing, that the matter cannot be resolved and shall advise the complainant of his or her right to proceed with the charge.
10. If the complainant desires to proceed with the charge, the record of the complaint shall be provided to a committee appointed by the academic dean in consultation with the director of human resources. The committee will be composed of two deans and three representatives from the College community of faculty, staff or students, depending on the individuals involved.
11. The committee shall hear testimony and evidence from both parties and shall make a finding regarding the truthfulness of the charge(s).
 - a. If the charge is proven true, the committee shall make a recommendation regarding sanctions, if appropriate. The imposition of sanctions shall occur in accordance with applicable College disciplinary and sanction procedures. The sanctions that may be imposed by the committee shall include, but not be limited to: censure/reprimand, demotion, suspension without pay or recommendation for termination.
 - b. If the charge is proven false, all references to the charge shall be expunged from the accused's records.
 - c. If the charge is found to be false and malicious, the matter should be referred to the academic dean for further action.
12. The final decision rests with the president acting on behalf of Board of Directors.

Sierra States University Community Commitment

At the beginning of term of employment, staff members are required to read the Administrative Handbook and sign the Sierra States University Community Commitment. This Commitment is binding upon staff members as long as they are hired by the university, even during times when school is not in session.

Please read the Administrative Handbook carefully, and feel free to ask clarifying questions of appropriate faculty and staff members. Once you have read the Administrative Handbook, please sign the Community Commitment below, and hand this signed page to the Registrar. This Commitment will be kept on record in your file.

Please keep your copy of the current Administrative Handbook. You will find it a useful resource throughout the year.

Community Commitment

I, (please print your name here) _____,
have read and understand all that is set forth within the current Sierra States University Administrative Handbook. I commit myself to uphold in spirit and practice all the university community codes, faith statements, standards and policies as stated herein. I understand that this Commitment is binding upon me as long as I am hired as a staff member by the university, even during times when school is not in session.

Signature of Staff Member

Date