

Proposed ETSU Consensual Relationship Policy (Evaluative Authority & Student)

Draft 9/30/2016

Definitions:

Evaluative Authority: any person with authority over a student (e.g. grading employment, supervision, writing letters of recommendation, award/scholarship recognition, scheduling, or the ability to affect membership/participation or to provide special consideration or treatment).

Consensual relationship: any intimate relationship when both parties consent and the relationship is of a romantic or sexual nature, whether that be dating, marriage, or another arrangement.

Purpose:

Evaluative Authorities have a distinctive and prestigious role in the educational process at this university. This policy is meant to prevent any abuse of this special role—even unintentionally—and to protect all parties involved from being in a vulnerable position or from feeling pressured. Also, consensual relationships can lead to favoritism from the Evaluative Authority. Others may believe that there is favoritism even if there is not.

Policy:

The university prohibits a relationship between an Evaluative Authority and a student—this is a conflict of interest. If there is such a relationship, the supervisor must be notified immediately and the conflict of interest will be resolved. If an Evaluative Authority fails to report, then, the university will investigate the relationship as if it is non-consensual and the university will take the appropriate disciplinary actions.