I. POLICY STATEMENT

A. Howard University shall have a process that formally addresses the formulation, approval, implementation, promulgation, dissemination, revision, interpretation, and monitoring-for-adherence of official University policies and procedures. The purpose of the University Policy on Policies is to seek to provide the University community with easily accessible and understandable policies that provide faculty, staff and students with clear and concise guidelines, transparency and clarity on how the University conducts business.

University policies are those that have institution-wide application, support the University’s mission, impact a substantial portion of the University community, or emanate from authority delegated to the President by the Board of Trustees to manage the institution or comply with Federal and other regulations.

Persons responsible for writing, updating, and distributing University policies shall comply with the conditions and procedures that are outlined in this document. Contained herewith are the definition of University policy and the standardized policy format, which outlines the steps for formulating, approving, issuing, and amending policies and procedures.

B. Approved “University” policies are maintained on the University’s policy website.

C. Unit Policies and Procedures -- A School, College, Department or operating Unit may issue policies and procedures that relate to matters of interest only to that particular School, College, Department or operating Unit and/or that set forth procedures by which it shall carry out “University” policies. These shall be referred to generally as “Unit” policies and procedures.

“Unit” policies and procedures are not considered “University” policies and therefore are not governed by the procedures set forth in this policy. Unit policies shall be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Responsible Officer prior to adoption. Schools, Colleges, Departments or operating Units
are required to use the standard policy format to encourage uniformity of form and appearance for policies and procedures throughout Howard University. These Unit policies and procedures shall be published and maintained on the website of the issuing School, College, Department or operating Unit. “Unit” policies and procedures may be hyperlinked to the relevant guiding University policy, however, these “Unit” policies and procedures are maintained by the responsible Department or Unit.

Unit policies and procedures shall not contradict or override University policies.

II. RATIONALE

University policies shall be developed or updated and made accessible to all relevant HU stakeholders and operating units in a timely manner to: 1) ensure the orderly, effective and efficient operation of the University; 2) ensure compliance with policy objectives; and 3) establish the accountability of operating units and individuals affected by each policy. University policies shall be developed and disseminated, kept current, and made accessible to all relevant operating units in a timely manner.

III. ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY

This policy applies to all University entities including the Howard University Hospital.

IV. DEFINITIONS

A. **Policy** - a governing principle formally approved and established to provide vision, guidance, assistance, and direction to the University community in the conduct of University or Unit affairs.

B. **Procedures** – statements that set forth the manner of implementing established policies through prescribed actions in order to ensure compliance with those policies.

C. **University Policy Council (the “Council”)** – the group designated and appointed by the President and composed of the principals of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer; General Counsel; Internal Auditor; Secretary; Strategic Planning and External Affairs; and Human Resources.

D. **Responsible Office** – the University office responsible for the creation, promulgation, revision, interpretation, and monitoring-for-adherence of policies and procedures. The following offices are deemed Responsible Offices:
E. **Responsible Officer** - the principal of the Responsible Office who is charged with carrying out the responsibilities of the Responsible Office, as presented in paragraph IV.D, including the implementation and oversight of policy administration. The Responsible Officer engages in the identification of existing University policies, recommends and submits new policies or revisions to existing policies, and recommends rescission of existing policies to the University Policy Council. The Responsible Officer shall not delegate the authority to perform as a Responsible Officer.

F. Structure and Organization of University Policies - Policies shall be assigned a number by the University Policy Council under one of the following series headings:

- **Series 100 – Academics and Research**
  Academic policies related to faculty, the Academy and its administration, and policies related to faculty, staff and student research, its funding and commercialization.

- **Series 200 – Administration, Facilities and Public Safety**
  Broad range of policies related to general administration, facilities, safety and environmental risk.

- **Series 300 - Business and Finance**
  Policies guiding the accounting for and management of the University’s assets, and other financial matters.

- **Series 400 – Governance, Risk and Compliance**
  Broad range of policies related to ethics and standards of conduct, liability mitigation, values and principles, and other institutional issues.
Series 500 – Human Resources/Talent Management
Policies pertaining to the employer-employee relationship for faculty and staff.

Series 600 – Student Life
Broad range of policies related to all facets of student life from admission through graduation.

Series 700 – Information and Technology
Broad range of policies related to information and technology management.

Series 800 – External Relations and Fundraising
Policies related to managing relationships with groups, organizations and other entities external to Howard University, including alumni relations, government relations and lobbying.

Series 900 – Clinical
Range of policies related to the Health Sciences Enterprise, including the Howard University Hospital and the Faculty Practice Plan.

V. POLICY PROCEDURES

A. Policy Ownership
New and existing policies shall be assigned to a Responsible Officer. The Responsible Officer shall perform the responsibilities noted in paragraph IV.E. The Responsible Officer shall also be accountable for initiating, amending and recommending rescission of policies.

B. Policy Format
University policies shall be written and maintained in a standardized format. The standardized University policy format is provided as “Howard University Policy Format” at the end of this document.

C. Policy Preparation Process
Proposed or revised policy shall be prepared in accordance with the prescribed format and submitted to the Responsible Officer for consideration and appropriate action. The Responsible Officer shall provide for substantial review by all key stakeholders prior to submission to the University Policy Council. The Council may require the Responsible Officer to appear before the Council to discuss the rationale for proposing, revising or rescinding policy.

D. Policy Compliance Review and Approval Process
The policy shall be reviewed for compliance with University By-Laws and Board policies and procedures, and consistency with previous Board actions.
Once the policy is vetted, reviewed, and accepted by the Council, the Council shall forward the proposed or revised policy to the President (or the Board of Trustees) if required, for final approval. Determination of final approval authority will be guided by the University By-Laws and the delegation of authority as provided therein.

E. Policy Dissemination Process
Upon final approval by the appropriate authority, the new or revised policy shall be posted on the University’s policy website; information announcing the posting shall be generally disseminated to the University community. Other appropriate means of disseminating policies may be used to complement the posting of the policy on the University’s policy website.

F. Sunset Provision
Only policies managed via this process shall be considered “University” policies.

In the first three years following Presidential approval of the Policy on Policies, all Responsible Officers and University staff, authorized to support implementation of the Policy on Policies, shall engage in a comprehensive, enterprise-wide review of policies to identify existing “University” policies. All identified “University” policies shall be compiled in a database. Those policies that have not been updated in five years or more shall be assigned a sunset date. All such “University” policies shall expire if not presented to the University Policy Council for review prior to the sunset date. This proviso does not preclude the formulation and promulgation of new policies according to the other provisions of this policy.

G. Comprehensive Policy Review
To ensure policy relevance and effectively manage risk, the Responsible Officer shall routinely initiate a review of the University policies within the Officer’s purview. Such review shall occur within three to five years following University Policy Council review and approval. In cases where delayed review may result in increased institutional risk, comprehensive policy review shall be conducted more frequently.

H. Location of Policies
The official repository of University policies is the Office of the Secretary. Official University policies shall be posted on the Howard University website. School, College, Department and operating Unit web pages may not display copies or versions of official University policies, but Schools, Colleges, Departments and Units are encouraged to provide a hyperlink to the relevant official University policy website.
I. Policy Exceptions
All University entities are expected to comply with University policy. If an exception to the application of a proposed University policy is anticipated, it is incumbent upon the Responsible Officer to delineate all exceptions within the context of the proposed policy. Should a policy exception be required after a policy is promulgated, it is incumbent upon the Responsible Officer to establish a process for granting the exception and provide a justification to the University Policy Council.

VI. INTERIM POLICIES
The President is empowered to issue interim policies in situations where a University policy shall be established in a time period too short to permit completion of the process delineated in this policy. Each interim policy shall remain in force for up to six months from the date of issuance.

VII. SANCTIONS
Failure to follow this policy or any other approved University policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

VIII. WEBSITE ADDRESS
www.howard.edu/policy

HISTORY:
May 24, 2011 – addition of Office of University Communications, Howard University Hospital, Chief Information Officer, Series 900, composition of University Policy Council, and addition of an Exceptions section.

July 27, 2011 – edit to change Talent Management to Human Resources and add Chief HR Officer to UPC.

March 5, 2012 – general language added to conform with University organizational changes.
HOWARD UNIVERSITY POLICY FORMAT

Policy Number - the number in the applicable series assigned by the University Policy Office, followed by a sequential number.

Policy Title: A descriptive name that succinctly but clearly designates the subject matter.

Responsible Officer: Self-explanatory.

Responsible Office: Self-explanatory.

Effective Date: The date on which the requirements of the policy are implemented and enforceable. If a revised or updated policy is being issued, then the dates of the original policy and its revisions or updates shall be shown in chronological order. The dates shall be displayed in the following format -- XX/XX/XXXX (Original Effective Date: XX/XX/XXXX; prior updates: XX/XX/XXXX, XX/XX/XXXX, etc.)

The subject matter of the policy document shall: start two lines below the heading material, be capitalized and bolded, and follow Roman numerals.

I. Policy Statement
   • Background
     - New or updated policy
     - Problem/issue to be addressed
   • Conformance with University’s mission and governance goals
   • Institutional Impact
     - Financial cost
     - Cultural, systemic, procedural changes
   • Other key issues

II. Rationale
   • Reason for policy
     - Legal, regulatory, financial, accreditation or other context
     - Advantages
     - Risk avoidance

III. Entities Affected by this Policy
   • All key stakeholders and stakeholder perspectives
   • Stakeholder engagement in the policy formulation process
IV. Definitions
• Terms requiring explanation to ensure clarity and understanding.

V. Policy Procedures
• How policy will be implemented
• Roles and responsibilities
• Communications plan
• Required training
• Policy effectiveness evaluation indicators
• University groups/entities exempted from policy:
  o Conditions/circumstances
  o Justification

VI. Sanctions
• Consequences to be applied in situations where policy is disregarded.

VII. Hyperlink (University Policies) and related Unit policies (Web Address)