

HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS: DISPUTE RESOLUTION



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OF GEORGIA

Dispute Resolution

CITATION REFERENCE

OFFICIAL TITLE	POLICY ON DISPUTE RESOLUTION
VOLUME	HUMAN RESOURCES
RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	USG HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE
ORIGINALLY ISSUED	
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[Return to Human Resources Administrative Practice Manual Table of Contents](#)

Policy Statement

The University System of Georgia is committed to providing a good working environment for its faculty and staff. Conflicts and disagreements between employees and their supervisors are inevitable. It is the policy of the University System of Georgia to resolve these disputes fairly and at the lowest possible level. When these conflicts or disagreements occur, employees should first attempt to resolve them through discussion with their supervisor.

This policy reinforces the institution's commitment to provide a safe and amicable workplace for all employees.

Applicability

All units of the University System of Georgia are covered by this policy.

Who Should Read This Policy

All employees within the University System of Georgia should be aware of this policy.

Definitions

These definitions apply to these terms as they are used in this policy:

- **Board of Regents (BOR):** The governing body of the University System of Georgia.

Process and Procedures

The policy is intended to provide an avenue for resolution of conflicts at the lowest possible level. Attempted resolution may be through the Dispute Resolution Process or through the Grievance/Disciplinary Review Process, if applicable.

**HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS: DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

A grievance or disciplinary review will be available to handle claims that a person has been harmed by any action that violates the policies of either the institution or the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (“the Board of Regents”) or for requested disciplinary review pursuant to the University policy, entitled Conduct, Dismissal, Demotion or Suspension. See more information on grievances and disciplinary reviews in the section entitled Grievance Policy.

Dispute Resolution Procedures

As a first step, complainants should try to resolve problems and complaints by contacting their immediate supervisor or, in the case of a student, the academic department head or unit director. This initial contact should be made within ten (10) working days from the occurrence of the problem. The supervisor or department head should then arrange a meeting with the complainant, and all concerned should make a good faith effort to resolve the problem. The Dispute Resolution Coordinator will be available to assist in these initial efforts to resolve disputes.

If the dispute cannot be resolved through the efforts outlined above, the parties may be referred to the Mediation Coordinator to discuss whether mediation is an appropriate means for resolving the dispute. Mediation is a process that helps people resolve disputes for themselves in a mutually acceptable way in which everyone involved in the dispute meets with one or more trained mediators. In a private setting, the mediator provides an orderly, simple process for the parties to discuss their dispute along with their feelings, perceptions and needs. The goal is to begin communication and move towards resolving the dispute in a manner agreeable to all.

If the parties are unable to informally resolve the dispute, they do not wish to pursue mediation or are unsuccessful in resolving the dispute through mediation, the Dispute Resolution Coordinator will advise the person raising the dispute of what other resources may be available, if any.

Responsible Parties and Contact Information

Party	Responsibility	Phone/Email/URL
Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, USG	Ensure compliance with policy.	404-962-3235 usg-hr@usg.edu
Institution Chief Human Resources Officers	Ensure compliance with policy. Ensure identification of individuals who can serve as the institutional dispute resolution coordinator and the mediation coordinator.	See University System HR Officer Listing at HR Officer Listing
Institution Chief Legal Affairs Officer, if applicable	Offer assistance with policy interpretation.	See institution directory.

**HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS: DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Appendices (Internal Documents, Forms and Web Links)

- None

Related Documents and Resources (External)

- None

[Return to Human Resources Administrative Practice Manual Table of Contents](#)