**3356-2-04 Search waivers for hiring of faculty and professional/ administrative staff.**

Responsible Division/Office: Equal Opportunity and Policy Development

Responsible Officer: General Counsel

Revision History: June 2006; June 2011; March 2013; May 2015; March 2017

Board Committee: University Affairs

**Effective Date:** **March 16, 2017**

Next Review: 2022

(A) Policy statement. It is the policy of Youngstown state university that institutional employment and diversity goals are best served through a standard search process. However, exceptions to the standard search process may be appropriate in situations where it can be clearly demonstrated that it is in the university’s best interest to forgo the standard search process.

(B) Scope. This policy applies to faculty and professional/administrative staff vacancies, including externally funded positions (see rules 3356-7-42 and 3356-7-43 of the Administrative Code). The selection of executive and administrative officers of the university is not included within the scope of this policy. (See rules 3356-9-01 and 3356-9-02 of the Administrative Code for the selection of administrative and executive officers.) A request for a search waiver does not waive any human resource or financial requirements for a position.

(C) Purpose. To provide a process for requesting a search waiver for fully qualified individuals who can make a unique contribution to the university and its strategic plan.

(D) Request criteria. The following information shall be provided in writing when submitting a request for a search waiver.

(1) A description of the position, including minimum (and if appropriate) preferred qualifications.

(2) Qualifications, credentials and/or skills of the individual that qualify him/her for the position.

(3) Likelihood of success in the position (e.g., promotion and tenure, where applicable).

(4) Relevance of the hire to the university’s strategic priorities.

(5) Input of the hiring unit for the requested appointment.

(6) Identification of funds to support the position.

(7) Rationale for departing from the standard search process presented.

(8) The race and gender of the proposed hire, if known.

(E) Review criteria. The following factors will be considered when determining whether a waiver is in the university’s best interests.

(1) Whether the proposed hire supports the university’s affirmative action goals.

(2) Whether the position and/or funding are temporary or time limited.

(3) The existence of an urgent situation.

(4) Whether the proposed hire possesses outstanding and uniquely specialized skills, knowledge, or experience that would otherwise not be available through the standard search process. Experience, skills, or knowledge gained through an interim appointment or temporary assignment of some or all of the duties of the position does not make an individual uniquely qualified for the position.

(5) Whether a recent search(es) for the position has lacked a qualified pool of applicants.

(6) Previous use of search waivers by the office or department.

(7) Other compelling reasons.

 (F) Procedures.

(1) Individuals considered for employment under the search waiver process must be reviewed by the hiring department or academic unit.

(2) When any unit inquires about employment opportunities for a potential faculty or staff recruit that is within the university’s strategic interest, the chair/director will request a copy of the potential employee’s curriculum vitae and/or other relevant materials.

(3) A request for a search waiver, including all supporting information listed in paragraph (D) of this policy, must be submitted in writing to the office of human resources and labor relations and the office of equal opportunity and policy development for review and recommendation. Following review by the offices of human resources and equal opportunity and policy development, the request will be forwarded to the office of the president.

(4) Only the president, or designee, is authorized to grant a waiver from the requirement of a standard search.

(5) The office of equal opportunity and policy development will provide information and assistance, as appropriate.

(6) The office of equal opportunity and policy development will provide the board of trustees with a quarterly report on hiring activity under this policy.