Welcome & Objectives

• Discuss commitment to developing a diverse team and inclusive environment
• Understand bias obstacles inherent in social selection situations
• Discuss best practices for maximizing inclusion and minimizing bias
• Discuss what it means for your search

Nondiscrimination Statement

The University of Maine System does not discriminate on the grounds of:

• race
• color
• religion
• sex
• sexual orientation
• transgender status
• gender expression
• national origin
• citizenship status
• age
• disability
• genetic information or
• veteran’s status
Equal Employment Opportunity vs. Affirmative Action

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)
- Prohibits discrimination based on protected groups

Affirmative Action (AA)
- Additional proactive measures to help ensure equal employment opportunities
- Good faith efforts to recruit people of color, women, veterans, and persons with a disability

Affirmative Action

Affirmative Action Employer:
- More than just "recruiting"—it's workforce planning
- Purposeful strategies to create and demonstrate organizational priorities
- Annually establishes goals when number of women/minorities employed (utilization) are lower than availability in all faculty and staff job groups
  - Not rigid, not quotas
  - Good faith effort
  - Federal law prohibits preferential selection based on gender or race
  - Current AA Plan identified underutilization of women and minorities in various departments/job categories

Where UMS Stands

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<th>Institution</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian American Indian</th>
<th>Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Two or more</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Total minority</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>State of Maine (2016 Census)</th>
<th>University of Maine</th>
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</table>

Institutional data as of November 2015

[Note: Data source: Division of Equal Opportunity Services in Human Resources, University of Southern Maine]
Implementation

- Invitation to applicants to self-identify when they apply for a position
- EO collects data regarding composition of the applicant pool
- Faculty and staff on search committees can/should call potential candidates and encourage them to apply
- Appoint search committees that reflect gender, racial, and other types of diversity
- Send announcements to HBCUs and other institutions that have a strong history of serving Latinx, Native Americans, other persons of color
- Contact women and persons of color who have received significant grants or professional recognition and ask for names of promising diverse scholars

Ways to Actively Recruit

- Generate a pool vs. tapping a pool
- Create a standing committee that identifies women or diverse candidates
- Introduce yourself to graduate students giving presentations – invite them to visit Maine or give them your card
- Establish relationships = better retention
- Speak with diverse recent hires and see how they were successfully recruited
- Keep a future candidate file

Diversity

Diversity = the presence of difference
Diversity

An inclusive institution:

• Involves and empowers its members
• Recognizes the inherent worth of all
• Values and practices respect for the talents, beliefs, backgrounds and ways of living of its members
• Promotes and sustains a sense of belonging
Inclusive Environment

What factors create an inclusive environment?

- Everyone is treated with respect and dignity – everyone is valued
- Policies regarding equity are in place
- Faculty and staff are representative of local community and welcoming of underrepresented groups
- Institution values inclusion
  - Inclusion is supported by senior administration
  - Barriers to inclusion are identified and dismantled
  - Unnecessary hierarchies are discouraged

Why is diversity important?

- Changes in enrollment
- Enriches living and learning environment
- Leads to higher retention rates for faculty, staff and students
- Preparing our students for success in the international world and global economy by developing cultural competence
- Diverse working groups are more productive, creative, and innovative (Herring, 2009)
- Level of critical analysis of decisions and alternatives are higher in groups exposed to minority viewpoints (Dowdence et al., 2006; Antonio et al., 2004)
Implicit Bias vs. Stereotypes

- Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner.

- These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual’s awareness or intentional control.

Implicit Bias

Residing in the subconscious, these biases are different from known biases that individuals may choose to conceal for the purposes of social and/or political correctness. Rather, implicit biases are not accessible through introspection.

Kirwan Institute: State of Implicit Bias, 2015

Implicit Bias

- Implicit biases are pervasive and robust (Nosek, Smith et al., 2007).

- Everyone processes them, even people who swear to impartiality (Sandman, Johnson, & Guthrie, 2009).

- Biases do not necessarily align with our declared beliefs or even reflect stances that we would endorse (Duckworth & Janney, 2013; Graham & Lowery, 2004; Kang et al., 2012).
Implicit Bias

Individuals who “whiten” resumes get more interviews and are more than twice as likely to get callback invites than candidates that reveal their race (Kang, DeCelles, Tilcsik, & Jun, 2016).

- 25% of black applicants received callbacks from “whitened” resumes compared to only 10% with no change
- 21% of Asian applicants received callbacks from “whitened” resumes compared to only 11.5% with no change
- Employers claiming to be pro-diversity discriminated against resumes with racial references just as much as employers who didn’t mention diversity at all in their job ads

Implicit Bias

Curriculum Vitae: Identical CVs with gendered names resulted in more recommendations of hires for male candidates.

Search committees tend to favor Brian over Karen 2:1 among university psychology professors. (Steinpreis, R., Anders, K. & Ritzke 1999)
Implicit Bias

Interviewers’ verbal and nonverbal actions may affect the performance of interviewees.

Status Quo Bias

The April 2016 Harvard Business Review featured a study of a university’s hiring decisions that concluded that where an applicant is the only woman in a pool of finalists, the odds of her being hired were “statistically zero.” (Johnson, Hekman & Chan, 2016)

• This was consistent regardless of the size of the finalist pool and excluded all searches where there were no women or “minority” applicants.

Implicit & Status Quo Bias

• Being the only woman highlights how different she is from the norm
• Having your differences made salient can also lead to inferences of incompetence
Implicit & Status Quo Bias

When there were two “minorities” or women in the pool of finalists, the status quo changes, resulting in a significantly increased chance that a “minority” or woman would be hired.

- The odds of hiring a woman were 79.14x greater if there were at least two women in the finalist pool
- The odds of hiring a “minority” were 193.72x greater if there were at least two “minority” candidates

Combating Bias

- Implicit biases are malleable and can be unlearned and replaced with new mental associations (Blair, 2002; Blair, Ma, & Lenton, 2002; Dasgupta, 2013)
- Seek out information on implicit bias (https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit)
- “Colorblind” - Identify and consciously acknowledge real group and individual differences
- Routinely check thought processes and decisions for bias

Combating Bias

- Review applications individually - avoid reviewing as a committee as a whole
- Review materials when you are not overly tired or feeling rushed
- Focus on job-related criteria - tendency for bias decreases as more job relevant information is provided
Search Committee Responsibilities

- Select job posting locations that maximize outreach to qualified diverse populations
- Make transparent and remind ourselves of natural inclination toward implicit bias
- Be conscious of status quo bias
- Apply evaluation criteria consistently
- Conduct reference checks consistently
- Avoid social media exploration of candidate
- Document all decisions and the job-related reasons for them

Topic Issues

Questions that can/cannot be asked:

https://www.maine.gov/mhrc/laws-guidance/employment/pre-employment

Important that search committee as well as others who may interact with candidates are familiar with guidelines.

Applicants may ask questions that are not appropriate:

Example: Applicant starts talking about family/Applicant says it’s difficult to get out of house because of children.

- These are not relevant to the hiring decision – allow candidate to talk but do not ask follow-up questions or make comments
- Do not include in notes or deliberations

Permissible CATEGORY EXAMPLES OF LAWFUL INQUIRIES INQUIRIES THAT ARE UNLAWFUL

ANCESTRY/NATIONAL ORIGIN
- Whether applicant is a U.S. citizen.
- Whether applicant is legally eligible to work or remain permanently in the U.S.
- Language applicant speaks (if job related).
- Applicant’s current address.
- How long applicant has lived in this State or City.
- List of membership organizations applicant feels are relevant to the position.
- U.S. military experience
- Nationality, lineage, ancestry, descent, or birthplace of applicant or relatives.
- Applicant’s native or primary language.
- How applicant acquired the ability to read, write, or speak a foreign language.
- How long applicant has lived in the U.S.

AGE
- Whether applicant is under 18 years of age; if so, applicant’s age.
- Other questions about date of birth or age.
- Dates of graduation from educational institutions.
- Questions asked only of a particular age group, e.g., asking only older applicants about health.

RELIGION
- Whether applicant is able to perform the essential functions of the job, including attendance requirements, if provided with reasonable accommodations for religious reasons.
- List of educational institutions.
- Religious denomination, affiliation, place of worship, religious leaders, or religious holidays observed.
- Whether applicant can work on a particular religious holiday.
- Religious affiliation of educational institutions.
- Religious applicant or school.
- Whether applicant can work on a particular religious holiday.
### Documentation

- HR will advise you about documentation required during the search process.
- Goal of documentation is to establish the committee’s consensus about legitimate, job-related, non-discriminatory reasons for selection - and why other applicants were not selected.
- University requires search files to be maintained for three years - search chair’s responsibility.
- Do not say “English is their second language, or had heavy accent,” rather say something like, “applicant’s oral communication skills were weak and had difficulty understanding questions.”
- Committee notes should document why an applicant did or did not meet the criteria for the position.
- E-mail exchanges are also part of the search file and must be maintained. Care should be taken when sending emails regarding the process and candidates.

### Interview Notes

- Doodling notes and/or snide comments made during any portion of the search become part of the official file and are discoverable.
- Example: Looking to retire, short, husky, bald or tall, slim, blue eyes, or the “Seven Dwarfs”
- Certain comments can lead a reviewer to wrong impression of the process.
  - Examples:
    - “young, junior researcher” when intent is “entry level” or “recent graduate”
    - “energetic, vitality, youthful” - better to say “enthusiastic, engaged, interested”
Reference Checks

- May raise prohibited topics.
- Potential to obtain information that is not relevant to the position should NOT be shared.
- Important to know if there is anyone that the applicant does not want you to speak with.
- Social media/Google may inadvertently obtain information that is not relevant to the review.

Disability/Accommodation Questions

- Applicant has visible disability and you are not sure if they will need an accommodation - do not ask
- If applicant discloses a disability - do not ask for additional information
- Applicant requests an accommodation - it may be understated - don’t question
- Applicant may state they are hard of hearing or has another need - needs accommodation in application process
- If a candidate requests an accommodation either in the interview process or in performing the responsibilities of the position - call the Office of Equal Opportunity
- Accommodations should never be a part of the negotiation process, any accommodation will be addressed or handled after the offer.

Resources

- Human Resources Partner, 207.581.1581
- Equal Opportunity Office, 207.581.1226 or equal.opportunity@maine.edu
- Faculty Recruitment Handbook
  - https://umaine.edu/risingtide under 'Resources' menu
Before you participate on a search committee, tap into the resources linked below to help your department achieve critical diversity and innovation goals.

**STRIDE: Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence** – This video, available on YouTube, offers relevant strategies for identifying and overcoming schemas that impact faculty search and evaluation processes.

**STRIDE: Faculty Recruitment for Diversity and Excellence (PPT)**

**STRIDE Faculty Search Resources (PDF)**

**Faculty Searches: Reducing the Impact of Biases at Every Stage** (PDF)

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**ANY QUESTIONS?**

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