The President and Fellows adopted the following statement reaffirming the University’s policy concerning affirmative action and equal employment opportunity:

In their statements of November 3, 1969, and successive years, the President and Fellows of Harvard College emphasized the University’s policy of affirmative action and equal employment opportunity. The President and Fellows take this occasion once again to reaffirm the University’s policy.

Harvard University is committed to selecting faculty and staff without discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, veteran status, disability unrelated to job requirements, genetic information, military service, or other protected status. The President and Fellows of Harvard College call upon every member of the University involved in recruitment, hiring, and promotions to exert their best efforts to achieve the goals set forth in the current affirmative action plan. The President and Fellows call upon every member of the University to engage wholeheartedly in the effort to ensure a wholly nondiscriminatory process of recruiting, hiring, and promoting women, members of minority groups, qualified individuals with disabilities, and disabled and other covered veterans at all levels of employment throughout the University. Harvard also expects that outside agencies with which it contracts will comply with all applicable antidiscrimination laws.

Diversity within the University community advances the academic purposes of the University, and an affirmative action policy is essential to achieving such diversity. The University endorses the goals of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action as supportive of University values and of the values of a democratic and pluralistic society.

But simply adopting a policy of equal employment opportunity alone is insufficient. The University is also required to meet affirmative action program requirements established for contractors by the federal government and monitored by the Department of Labor. Such programs provide a mechanism for monitoring University personnel policies to ensure equal employment, as well as a means for locating and eliminating any deficiencies in relevant areas of employment.

The Office of the Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity and Equity was established to provide a central focus and resource within the University for pursuing with determination our goals of equal employment opportunity. This office serves as the University’s liaison with the federal government in matters related to contract compliance concerning employment. The duties of Lisa Coleman, the University’s Chief Diversity Officer/Special Assistant to the President, include coordination of the University’s affirmative action programs and oversight of their implementation throughout the University.

Harvard must and will maintain its commitment to the goals of affirmative action and equal employment opportunity. The President and Fellows of Harvard College request continuing cooperation at every level of the University toward implementing the University’s policy.

Drew Gilpin Faust