Consensual Relationships Between Faculty and Students
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Does anyone have a policy prohibiting consensual relationships between faculty and students? How do you adjudicate violations? I know ATIXA does not advocate for prohibitions of this type. Additionally, are the faculty the only parties penalized for consensual relationships, or if the students are as well?

We do advocate for having a policy, however, which you can find in the One Policy, One Process Model Policies (1P1P). In my mind, there are very few scenarios where the student would be penalized. I’ve seen situations where the student is pursuing a faculty member, and in that case the student conduct is the focus of the response. However, I believe it’s important to recognize the inherent power deficit in the students’ position. They are free-thinking adults (most of the time), yes, but they also reside in a near constant state of dependence on faculty for academic and future career achievement.

I also think it’s important to be reminded of the principle behind the prohibition: establishing a culture where professional boundaries are important and the faculty vigorously defend them, both to protect the integrity of the institution and in their role as mentors to the student population who rely on them, not only for instruction but as role models. The students will adopt the culture reinforced by the faculty – we cannot expect the students to establish that culture. That burden must land on our faculty.