Drug-Free University: Unlawful Drugs and Alcohol

I. Policy Statement and Purpose

Athens State University is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for students and employees and visitors. In addition to complying with applicable local, state, and federal laws, the University strives to meet this commitment through drug and alcohol abuse awareness and prevention efforts.

This policy establishes the prohibitions and expectations concerning unlawful drugs and alcohol. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and guests of Athens State University along with vendors/contractors, visitors, and all others conducting official business with the University or participating in any activity within the scope of authority of the University’s administration, faculty, or staff.

II. Prohibitions on Drugs and Alcohol

Visitors, vendors/contractors, students and employees are prohibited from:

- The unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, and drug paraphernalia on all University property, in University vehicles, and as part of University activities and programs. The serving of alcohol may be allowed on University Property, in accordance with the requirements of the Alcoholic Beverages on University Property policy.
- The unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, or use of a controlled substance on all University property, in University vehicles, and as part of University activities and programs.

Members of the University community are expected to refer suspected violations of this policy to University Security personnel for investigation and, if warranted, possible disciplinary action or criminal prosecution. The University can only take action against alleged offenders and protect the University from future incidents if suspected violations are reported in a timely fashion.

III. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness and Education

In order for students and employees to make informed choices about drug and alcohol use, the University provides drug and alcohol abuse awareness and education materials to all students and employees. In accordance with federal law, the University document Drug and Alcohol Abuse: Awareness and Prevention is distributed to all students and employees annually, and is available on the University website at all times to any interested parties.
IV. Sanctions Associated with Violations

Visitors, vendors/contractors, students and employees should be aware that they may be subject to criminal prosecution under federal, state, and local laws that specify fines or imprisonment as outlined in the *Drug and Alcohol Abuse Awareness and Prevention* document. Students may also be subject to loss of federal financial student aid for conviction of alcohol and drug-related offenses. Such legal sanctions may be in addition to any disciplinary sanctions imposed by the University.

Students who are found to be in violation of this policy are subject to the disciplinary procedures and possible sanctions as specified in the *Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures*, including but not limited to: warning, probation, restitution, counseling, suspension, or expulsion.

Employees who are found to be in violation of this policy are subject to Office of Human Resources procedures for disciplinary action including, but not limited to: warning, restitution, reassignment, counseling, or termination.

Visitors and vendors/contractors who are found to be in violation of this policy are subject to removal from University property.

V. Responsibility for this Operating Policy

**Policy Owner**

As part of the initial approval of this policy by the President and subsequent to the original dissemination of the policy, the President remains the policy owner for the ongoing evaluation, review, and approval of this policy. Subsequent reviews and revisions to this policy must be in accordance with approved operating policy procedures and processes.

This policy will be reviewed every year or more frequently as needed.

**Responsibility for Policy Implementation**

The President has assigned the responsibility of implementing this policy to the Vice President for Financial Affairs and the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Support Services, with the assistance of the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Student Activities.