



University Staff (non-bargaining unit faculty and employees)

SUBJECT (R*)	EFFECTIVE DATE (R*)	POLICY NUMBER (O*)
BONUS POLICY	June 14, 2010	1710.038

POLICY STATEMENT (R*)

The University shall consider providing incentive bonuses to non-bargaining unit faculty and employees in order to meet recruitment and retention needs and to encourage and reward exceptional performance and services to the University.

REASON FOR POLICY (O*)

To provide incentive bonuses and rewards in an effort to recruit, reward and retain quality employees.

DEFINITIONS (R*)

Bonus: A one-time monetary award given to an employee in addition to the employee’s regular compensation.

Educational Incentive Award: To encourage professional development and reward employees who acquire a degree, a professional license or professional certification from an accredited institution or professional organization.

Operational Excellence Award: To recognize employees who have demonstrated continuous outstanding performance, have made a significant contribution to the department’s mission and provided consistent support to the department’s objective.

Project Based Bonus: To recognize an employee upon the successful completion of a special project or assignment of significance that is in addition to the employee’s regularly assigned duties.

Sign-on Bonus: As a recruitment incentive, a sign-on bonus may be awarded to a new, highly qualified employee hired into a position considered critical to the University’s operations and strategic mission and/or deemed difficult to fill.

Spot Award: To provide employees with positive feedback, foster continued improvement and reinforce good observable performance after an event or task has been completed, usually without pre-determined goals or performance levels.

Variable Compensation Plan: To reward employees based on a pre-approved plan based on employee’s contribution, departmental objectives, revenue generated, targets achieved, and payout schedules.

PROCEDURES (O*)

I. Educational Incentive Award

Employees may be granted an Educational Incentive Award upon completion of a program of study, degree and/or certification from an accredited institution or professional organization. Course of study should be relevant to the position and/or departmental needs. Participation by the employee should be pre-approved by the Department Head with endorsement by the Vice President of Human Resources or designee. Upon completion of program/degree/certification, employee submits written confirmation of the completed coursework/license/certification to supervisor.

The Educational Incentive Awards are paid as a bonus upon submission of proof of completion as follows:

Associate Degree \$ 500
 Baccalaureate Degree \$ 1,000
 Master's Degree \$1,500
 Doctorate Degree/Juris Doctor \$2,000
 Apprenticeship \$ 500
 Journeyman \$ 750
 Professional Registration or License \$1,000
 Professional Certification \$ 500

II. Operational Excellence Award

The Operational Excellence Award is recommended for employees who exceed the expectations set forth of their position, have demonstrated continuous outstanding performance, have made significant contributions to the department's mission or strategic plan and/or have provided consistent support to the department's objectives. The OEA process will be directed by the University President and CFO including determining availability of funds and distribution. The final process will be monitored and approved by the Divisional Vice Presidents or Provost in conjunction with the Division of Human Resources.

III. Project-based Pay

Project-based pay is a lump sum amount payable upon the successful completion of a special project or assignment of significance that is in addition to the employee's regularly assigned duties.

The following criteria will apply to project based pay requirements:

- The amount of the project-based pay may not exceed \$5,000.
- Decision regarding the amount of the lump sum payment should be dependent upon the nature and complexity of the project.
- Recommendation for the amount is to be requested by the respective department with approval by Human Resources.
- Prior to the start of a project, the department head or supervisor must complete a Project Identification Form. The form must be reviewed and approved by the Divisional Vice Presidents or Provost and the Vice President for Human Resources or designee.

IV. Sign-on Bonus

To facilitate recruitment of employees considered critical to the University's operations and strategic mission and/or deemed difficult to fill. The following criteria should be followed when offering a Sign-on Bonus:

- The size of the bonus must be approved by the next level supervisor.
- The employee must agree to work for the university for at least one year. The minimum term of service will be determined based on significance of the position and size of the sign-on bonus offered.
- The employee must meet all pre-employment requirements and actually start working before receiving the sign-on bonus.
- A written agreement outlining the key objectives for the employee, the performance requirements, and pay back terms if agreement is not met must be executed.
- The agreement must be approved by the Vice President of Human Resources or designee in conjunction with the Divisional Vice President.

V. Spot Award

Spot awards are immediate *recognition* to reward employees for exceptional performance beyond the prescribed expectation of the employee's job. (Ex: employee exemplifies service excellence while performing the duties and expectations set forth in their position). Spot awards are given after the event has been completed, usually without pre-determined goals or set performance levels. They may be awarded at any time. Spot awards provide positive feedback, foster continued improvement, and reinforce good observable performance.

Spot awards may be:

- A lump sum dollar amount not to exceed a maximum of \$1,500 in a 12-month period.
- Non-cash (University merchandise, lunch tickets, game tickets, etc.).
- Certificates, plaques, etc.
- Spot Awards are recommended and approved at the department level in conjunction with the Vice President of Human Resources or designee.

VI. Variable Compensation Plan

A lump sum bonus payment awarded as part of a Variable Compensation Plan (VCP). VCPs are pre- approved for individual departments that place a strong value on employee's contribution, ability to impact performance, departmental objectives and revenues generated. The department dean or director must develop specific targets to be achieved, specific goals, pre-established criteria and payout schedule prior to the establishment of the VCP. The VCP must be approved by the Divisional Vice Presidents or Provost and by the Vice President of Human Resources or designee. Payments for non-exempt employees must be included as part of the employee's regular pay when calculating overtime pay.

Bonus payments for non-exempt employees must be included as part of the employee's regular pay when calculating overtime pay.

HISTORY (R*)

Effective Date: June 14, 2010.

As it relates to non-bargaining unit faculty and staff, this policy consolidates policy statements contained in the following policies, and, as such, supersedes them:

Educational Incentive Award
Operational Excellence Award
Project Based Bonus
Spot Award
Variable Compensation Award

RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT (R*)

Division of Human Resources
Florida International University

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT (R*)

Compensation Administration
Division of Human Resources
Florida International University
11200 S.W. Eighth Street, PC 226
Miami, Florida 33199
Telephone: (305) 348-6094

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***R = Required *O = Optional**