INFORMATION REGARDING PENSION SYSTEM MEMBERSHIP

Policy Id:
HR.006 - Information Regarding Pension System Membership

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INFORMATION REGARDING PENSION SYSTEM MEMBERSHIP

Full-Time Instructional Staff (Including Exec. Comp, REM & Substitute titles):

All full-time instructional staff are eligible for membership in either the Optional Retirement Program (ORP), which refers to membership in TIAA/CREF and the Alternate Funding Vehicles, or the New York City Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). In some cases, an employee who is already a member of the New York City Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and who is appointed to a full-time instructional staff position may retain membership in ERS as a "transferred contributor", thereby revoking his/her rights to join any other public pension plan in the future. Regardless of choice, pension membership, with the exception of substitutes, is mandatory for all full-time instructional staff. Substitutes can join the ORP only (unless they are transferred contributors of another public pension).

New instructional staff who are ERS members on a leave of absence from a civil service position must remain in ERS until they have relinquished their leave, generally upon attainment of 13.3b status in the instructional staff position. Once this status is attained, the employee has sixty (60) days to 1) elect to remain in ERS, 2) transfer to TRS, or 3) elect membership in the ORP.

Any member of TRS or ERS who is eligible to elect membership in the ORP may be able to retain rights to a TRS or ERS retirement benefit even if normal vesting time frames have not been met, provided contributions to the system are not withdrawn. Please consult with your college personnel officer for details.

Full-Time Civil Service Managers:

All full-time classified service personnel are required to join the New York City Employees' Retirement System after six months from gaining permanent status (those in provisional status may elect to join earlier). Civil Service Managers are also given the opportunity to join the Optional Retirement Program upon appointment to their position, pursuant to the rules cited in "Full Time Instructional Staff” above.
My signature below indicates that I have read the information above and have consulted with my college personnel officer regarding any questions I may have had concerning my pension program options and rights.

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The information provided within this document is based upon currently available information and should not be considered the sole source of information regarding pension membership. In all cases, the provisions of governing laws, rules and regulations prevail.

(Please attach to CUNY "RETIREMENT PROGRAM ELECTION FORM")