

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 26, 2010

Reply to Attn of:

Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity *Cert. Mail No.: 7007 2680 0001 2215 9088*

Dr. G. P. Peterson
President
Georgia Institute of Technology
225 North Avenue, NW
Atlanta, GA 30332

Dear President Peterson:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has completed a compliance review of the Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech), a recipient of NASA financial assistance. This limited scope review, focused on the School of Aerospace Engineering (AE program), was conducted pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), and NASA's Title IX implementing regulations at 14 C.F.R. Part 1253, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs receiving Federal financial assistance through NASA. The review was conducted to determine whether GA Tech was in compliance with NASA's Title IX regulations; specifically, to ensure that the AE program provides equal educational opportunity regardless of gender. Please find enclosed a copy of NASA's report of the compliance review and the NASA Title IX regulations.

Based on an evaluation of the data provided by GA Tech and from on-site interviews and observations, we find GA Tech and the AE program to be in compliance with NASA Title IX regulations. More specifically, we find that GA Tech and the AE program are meeting equal opportunity requirements pertaining to Title IX coordination, grievance procedures, self-evaluation, and methods of program administration.

However, we also find that GA Tech and the AE program may strengthen their existing equal opportunity efforts, particularly with respect to program administration. In this regard we note that the AE program does not have high participation rates of women. Like many of its counterparts nationwide, the AE program faces challenges in attracting and retaining women at all levels, from undergraduate students to faculty. NASA has provided recommendations regarding appropriate outreach and recruitment activities to address this issue. It also appears that the overall academic environment within the AE program may benefit from stronger education and awareness efforts around gender-related issues that may arise in part as a result of the small number of female faculty and students.

NASA has provided specific recommendations regarding these and other equal opportunity matters. We are pleased to note that GA Tech reports it has already begun

implementation of some of our key recommendations. We will contact GA Tech in one year to follow up on its progress in implementing these recommendations.

The report also identifies promising practices GA Tech is already undertaking to ensure equal educational opportunity regardless of gender. For example, GA Tech has taken an important and proactive step by establishing a Title IX Compliance Committee whose members are appointed by the University's President. In addition, the charter for this body includes responsibilities for raising campus awareness and assessing current policies and practices with regard to admissions, treatment of students, and the employment of personnel on campus. Importantly, this charter is fully consistent with NASA's Title IX regulations.

GA Tech has been very helpful in facilitating the review prior to, during, and after the on-site visit. NASA wishes to thank GA Tech's Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Pearl Alexander, as well as the faculty, staff, and students of the AE program, for their participation in the review.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release the report and related records on request. If NASA receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personal information which, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr. David R. Chambers, Senior Civil Rights Analyst, on 202-358-2128 at david.r.chambers@nasa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda R. Manuel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brenda R. Manuel
Associate Administrator for
Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Enclosures

cc:

Pearl Alexander, Senior Director, Employee Relations
Dr. Vigor Yang, Chair, AE Department