

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 30, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Dr. C.D. Mote, Jr.

President

University of Maryland College Park

1101 Main Administration Bldg.

College Park, MD 20742-5025

Dear Dr. Mote:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has completed its compliance review of the Aerospace Engineering Department at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). This review was conducted pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), and the NASA 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 compliance review focused on whether the Aerospace Engineering Department was providing equal educational opportunity regardless of gender in its graduate and undergraduate programs. The review included extensive analyses of documentation received from UMCP in response to numerous information requests, as well as interviews of students, faculty, and administrators.

Specifically, an evaluation was conducted of UMCP's compliance with regulatory procedural requirements regarding the designation of a responsible official for Title IX coordination and enforcement; adoption of grievance procedures for resolving Title IX complaints; dissemination of Title IX policy; and Title IX self-evaluation efforts. Furthermore, NASA examined the Aerospace Engineering Department's admissions, recruitment and outreach practices, academic advising and career counseling, students' access to and participation in research and classroom experiences, and other elements of program administration such as "family friendly" and anti-harassment policies. Finally, NASA identified promising practices UMCP, and specifically the Aerospace Engineering Department, is engaging in regarding these areas.

Based on this review, UMCP's Aerospace Engineering Department is found to have complied with the NASA Title IX regulations regarding the issues covered by the review. Moreover, NASA finds that UMCP's Aerospace Engineering Department is, in many ways, a model program for gender equity, particularly regarding its aggressive outreach and recruitment efforts, and its demonstrated leadership commitment to creating a

welcoming and inclusive environment that values all students. NASA notes with approval the extent and variety of promising practices UMCP is undertaking in its efforts to increase the participation of women in its Aerospace Engineering Department, and to ensure equal educational opportunity regardless of gender. NASA has also identified specific areas where UMCP's compliance may be strengthened.

NASA found UMCP to be very responsive in facilitating the review, including providing NASA representatives with an overview of the Aerospace Engineering Department prior to the on-site visit. NASA wishes to thank Dr. Darryll J. Pines, Chair of the Aerospace Engineering Department, and his staff for their cooperation, as well as Ms. Diane Krejsa, University Counsel, who served as UMCP's liaison with NASA throughout 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.

Enclosed please find a copy of NASA's report of the compliance review. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Torres, Acting Director, Program Planning and Evaluation Division, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, at 202-358-0937.

Sincerely,



Brenda R. Manuel

Brenda R. Manuel
Assistant Administrator for
Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Enclosure

cc:

Chair, Aerospace Engineering Department/Darryll J. Pines
University Counsel/Diane Krejsa