



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
COMMISSION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UMASS-DARTMOUTH ORDERED TO PAY DAMAGES IN  
DISCRIMINATION CASE**

**Boston, MA – June 15, 2011** – On June 1, 2011, an MCAD hearing officer issued a decision in the case of LuLu Sun v. University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in favor of Professor Sun, an Associate Professor of English at UMass-Dartmouth, who filed a claim of discrimination based on her gender, race, and Chinese ancestry. The Hearing Officer took the unprecedented step of ordering the promotion of Professor Sun to full Professor as well as awarding her \$154,503.30 in lost wages and \$200,000.00 in emotional distress damages.

Professor Sun asserted that she was treated less favorably than other candidates for promotion to full Professor within the University's Humanities Division. According to the Hearing Officer, school administrators ignored Professor Sun's outstanding teaching evaluations and cutting-edge research, mischaracterized her dossier as an "embarrassment," and indulged in every presumption against her application for promotion while extending every benefit of the doubt to male candidates for promotion. After Professor Sun refused to withdraw her application in response to pressure from administrators, she was penalized by having her request for travel funding denied and her course releases withdrawn.

On the basis of the school's discriminatory and retaliatory actions, the MCAD imposed a \$10,000.00 civil penalty on the school.

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