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Policy Area Division of  
Academics

## Academic Freedom

### Purpose

To promote the free expression of thought;

To ensure procedures exist for that free expression.

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good, which depends on the free search for and expression of truth. Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the faculty in teaching and of the student in learning. It carries with it duties that are both rights and responsibilities.

### Policy

Instructors are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of results, subject to adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an approved written agreement with the vice-president of academics.

Instructors are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of hire.

College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educators, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institutions by their utterances. Teachers should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that

they are not speaking for the institution.

*Taken from American Association of University Professors Policy Documents and Reports (10th edition)*

## Scope and Definitions

Applies to all faculty and instructional staff.

## Procedure

None; a statement of principles

## Sanctions and Notifications

None; a statement of principles.

## Appeals and Deadlines

None, though the policy can be changed through regular procedures.

## Vetting Process and Final Approval

- A. Faculty Senate - Academic Standards Committee
- B. Vice-President for Academics and Academic Deans
- C. Center for Institutional Effectiveness (quality assurance)
- D. President's Executive Council
- E. President

## Approval Signatures

**Step Description**

**Approver**

**Date**