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Academic Freedom Policy

A university is a forum for ideas, and it cannot fulfill its purpose of transmitting, evaluating, and extending knowledge if it requires conformity with any orthodoxy of content and method. Academic freedom is important in guaranteeing the existence of such a forum.

Academic freedom applies to both research and teaching. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of knowledge. Academic freedom in teaching is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student in learning. It carries with it duties and responsibilities correlative with rights.

- *Faculty*

Faculty is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of results subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties. They are also entitled to freedom in instruction in their subject or field of expertise, provided that it is consistent with approved curricular objectives or outcomes.

Cognizant of their responsibilities to their profession and to their institution, faculty accept certain obligations: they should be accurate, exercise sound judgment, and respect the right of others to express opinions.

- *Students*

Students are entitled to be taught by competent teachers and to have access to all information pertinent to their subjects of study. Moreover, they have a right to intellectual disagreement with their instructors and their associates and to question them without fear of recrimination or punishment.

- *Guest speakers and other programs*

A university by its very nature cannot advocate the concept of freedom of expression and then deny persons with whom it is in disagreement the opportunity of giving expression to their views. Therefore, a speaker, performance, or program may be presented under the sponsorship of any duly recognized student, faculty, or administrative organization. It is not necessary that the point of view presented be congenial to the campus, members of the staff or student body. The speaker must be accorded the courtesy of an uninterrupted presentation. Except for ceremonial occasions, speakers must accept as condition of their appearance, the right of their audience to question or challenge statements in their address from the floor.

All Revision Dates

10/2014

Approval Signatures

Step Description

Approver

Date

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