

D.3.5 (Policy) Academic Freedom and Responsibilities

Responsible Department: Vice Chancellor for Academic Success

Board Adoption: 4-28-09

Last Board Action: 4-28-09, 9-27-22, 2-20-24

All members of the faculty are entitled to academic freedom as defined in the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure formulated by the Association of American Colleges and the American Association of University Professors as revised by these associations in November 1989 and January 1990. The pertinent provisions of this statement are as follows:

1. Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities for the institution.
2. Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.

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 educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they 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.