

Academic Freedom

Faculty members and their students are entitled to freedom in the classroom and/or other teaching environments in discussing their subject matter. Controversy and debate are necessary aspects of critical inquiry, but the freedom to teach and learn must be joined by a sustained effort to distinguish between knowledge and belief. To ensure the freedom to seek and profess truth and knowledge, the faculty member shall not be subjected to censorship or discipline by the college on grounds that the faculty member has expressed opinions or views, or provided access to materials, or guest speakers, which are controversial, unpopular, or contrary to the attitudes of the community or institution. Faculty members should encourage the expression of differing points of view, while being careful to avoid the repeated and excessive intrusion of material that has no relation to their subject matter. Students have the same freedom in discussing the subject matter in the classroom, and the same responsibility to respect the rights and opinions of others.