



Institutional Policy Academic Freedom

Approved by: Board of Trustees

Date Approved: April 15, 2019

Effective Date: April 15, 2019

1. **Summary:** This policy establishes guidelines relative to faculty members' rights to academic freedom.
2. **Rationale:** It is necessary to document this policy to ensure that faculty members are aware of the guidelines associated with their academic freedom.
3. **Entities Affected:** faculty
4. **Definitions:** N/A
5. **Policy:** Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subjects but should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter that has no relation to their subject. Faculty members have freedom in research and publication within these limits.

Faculty members have freedom to speak and write as citizens but should recognize that since the college may be judged by their utterances, their position as members of the college community imposes special obligations. Faculty should be accurate, restrained, and respectful of others in their communication, and should clearly indicate that they are not institutional spokespersons. Any faculty member who believes that his or her rights regarding academic freedom have been violated should refer to "Grievance Resolution" in the "Employment" section of the Faculty Handbook.

6. Procedure:

- a. **Implementation:** The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for creating and maintaining any procedures necessary for the implementation of this policy.
- b. **Responsibility for Compliance:** The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.
- c. **Notification:** This policy will be posted on the College's website and published in the Faculty Handbook.
- d. **Review:** This policy will be reviewed in the Fall 2020 semester.

For the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research only:

Policy version: 1

Policy number: 3.017

Related policies:

Policy History

Version 1.0

April 15, 2019