

05/02/17

1:32 p.m.

The primary purpose of college is to promote the exploration of ideas and the discovery and dissemination of knowledge and understanding. A major purpose of community college education is to share with students the scholarly, imaginative, and scientific efforts that have been made toward understanding our human condition and our world. Informed and critical students will be more able to responsibly as citizens to make choices in their own lives, and to attempt solutions for problems of the future than uninformed, uncritical followers. A purpose of academic freedom is to ensure this intellectual development of students. The college is to be an open forum for ideas and issues to be raised, challenged, and tested.

In order to realize the educational advantages offered by an open forum climate, the District and the Federation will seek to maintain a teaching and learning environment that is collegial and respectful, and free of ~~sexual unlawful harassment and discrimination, or abusive conduct~~. Faculty members shall be protected from extraneous considerations such as a faculty member's ethnicity, race, religion, political beliefs or affiliation, sexual orientation, or disability being used in evaluations of their professional performance.

The District and the Federation agree that academic freedom is essential for the fulfillment of the educational mission of the District and for the ability of faculty members to perform their professional duties. It is the cornerstone of a college. Freedom in teaching is fundamental for the protection of both faculty and students in teaching and learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of knowledge. The fundamental need for academic freedom is acknowledged to protect faculty from censorship or restraint which might interfere with their obligation to pursue, with the performance of their teaching function,

All faculty members, regardless of their employment status, shall enjoy the privileges and responsibilities inherent in academic freedom as outlined in the AAUP's 1915 Statement as amended in 1970. In particular, controversy is at the heart of free academic inquiry which the entire structure is designed to protect. Teachers need to avoid persistently discussing matters and their opinions that have no relation to the subject or goals of the courses they are teaching.

Each faculty member is a citizen as well as being a faculty member. The rights and responsibilities of a citizen are not mutually exclusive and one does not stop being a citizen engaged in a democratic republic with guarantees of life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the ability to engage in civil discourse with one's elected officials when one becomes a faculty member.

When faculty members speak or write as citizens, they shall be free from institutional censorship, discipline, or obligations.

Faculty members shall maintain the exclusive right and responsibility to determine the grades they assign on the basis of their professional judgment. The grades given to each student for any course or instruction taught shall be determined by the instructor of the course, and the determination of the student's grade by the instructor - in the absence of mistake, fraud, bad faith, or incompetence - shall be final.

6/2/17
1:32 p.m.

The 1940 AAUP Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and ~~Tenure~~^g with 1970 Interpretative Comments* from the American Association of College Professors provides a nationally recognized definition of academic freedom, its protections and its responsibilities.

Academic Freedom

(a) *Academic employees are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be conscientious regarding teaching subject matter which has no relation to their subject.*

(b) *Academic employees are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of 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 of the institution.*

(c) *Academic employees 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 institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, should show respect for the opinions of others, and indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.*

* The footnote from the 1970 Interpretative Notes on the AAUP Statement reads: "The intent of this statement is not to discourage what is 'controversial.' Controversy is at the heart of free academic inquiry which the entire statement is designed to focus. The passage serves to underscore the need for teachers to avoid persistently intruding material which has no relation to the subject."

Appendix