

Board Policies

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

206.00 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The Professional Employee is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and a representative of the College. When he/she speaks or writes as a citizen, he/she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his/her special position in the community imposes special obligations upon the Professional Employee. As a scholar and as an educator, the Professional Employee should remember that the public may judge his/her profession and the College by his/her utterances. Hence, the Professional Employee should at all times be accurate, exercise restraint, show respect for the opinion of others, and make every effort to indicate that he/she is not speaking for the College.

- The Professional Employee is given full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his/her other academic duties. Research for pecuniary return, however, shall be based upon an agreement with the President of the College.
- The Professional Employee is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing appropriate subject matter and selecting appropriate learning materials and instructional methods based on accepted professional standards. In the exercise of this academic freedom, the Professional Employee may, within the law, discuss his/her own subject area in the classroom, including controversial materials, as long as such discussions and materials are relevant to the subject area and the Professional Employee distinguishes between his/her personal opinions and factual information.
- The Professional Employee is to make certain that controversial issues are presented and discussed as objectively as possible without forcing students to adopt the Professional Employee's point of view as part of the student's personal philosophy. In doing so, the Professional Employee should be aware of the mores of the community. Good pedagogy requires working with this framework while challenging the students with ideas and concepts.

Professional Employees are entitled to evaluate students in their classes based solely on their assessment of the academic merit of each student's work in that class. Grades given a student by a Professional Employee shall be final, subject to the student appeal of course grades process as defined in College policy.

Adopted October 18, 1971
Reviewed July 11, 1989
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