



Part 6 – Academic Freedom and Professional Ethics

2-3-601 Academic Freedom.

Academic freedom is the right to pursue and share ideas, information and knowledge without institutional or governmental interference. Faculty members are entitled to academic freedom in their teaching, their scholarly and artistic activities, and in the dissemination of the results of those activities. Implicit in the right to academic freedom is faculty adherence to professional ethics.

2-3-602 Professional Ethics.

Faculty members recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their discipline is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end they spend energy on developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation of exercising critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty.

As teachers, faculty members encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students and hold before them the best scholarly standards of their discipline. They demonstrate respect for students as individuals and serve as their intellectual guides and counselors. They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that evaluations reflect the true merit of student work. They respect the confidential nature of the teacher-student relationship and avoid any exploitation of students for private advantage and acknowledge significant assistance from them. Faculty members protect the students' academic freedom.

As a colleague, the faculty member has obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars: to respect and defend the free inquiry of associates; to show due respect for the opinions of others in the exchange of criticism and ideas; to acknowledge academic debts and to strive to be objective in the professional judgment of colleagues; to accept a share in the faculty responsibilities for the governance of the institution. As members of an academic institution, faculty members seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although they observe the stated regulations of the institution, provided these do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain the right to criticize and seek revision. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, faculty members recognize the effect of this decision upon the program of the institution and give due notice of their

intentions.

As members of society, faculty members have the rights and obligations of any citizen. They measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of their responsibilities to their discipline, to students, to the profession, and to the institution. When speaking or acting as private persons, faculty members avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting for the University. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, faculty members have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.