

ACADEMIC FREEDOM - BP 4.1

Legal Authority: NCGS 115D-20

Approval: April 19, 2011

Revision:

Academic Freedom

The College's Policy on academic freedom is based on the AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments and gender specific amendments from 1989-90.

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. An educated citizenry is the key to the continual improvement of society.

Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. It is essential to foster a spirit of inquiry within the institution where ideas may be examined in an atmosphere of freedom and confidence. Along with academic freedom comes responsibility.

College faculty are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for money should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

College faculty are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject. They should be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, and show respect for student learning and opinions.

College faculty are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they will be free from institutional censorship or discipline; however, 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 their institution by their comments. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the Institution.

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