

Definitions

Academic freedom in the classroom is the right of faculty members to interpret their fields and to communicate conclusions without being subjected to interference or penalty because these conclusions may be at variance with those of constituted authorities, organized groups or individuals.

Outside the classroom, faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the presentation and publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties. Research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the MiraCosta Community College District, conforming to Board Policy/Administrative Procedure 3715, Intellectual Property Rights.

Academic freedom carries with it corresponding responsibility. Academic responsibility emphasizes the obligation to study facts, to present and interpret ideas concerning human society and all fields of knowledge. Since human knowledge is limited and changeable, faculty members will acknowledge the facts on which controversial views are based and show respect for opinions held by others. While striving to avoid bias, faculty members may nevertheless present the conclusions to which they believe the evidence points, both in the classroom and outside of it. However, controversial matters that bear no relation to the subject matter should not be introduced into classes.

Faculty members 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 their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times strive for accuracy, 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.

The superintendent/president and the Board of Trustees of MiraCosta Community College District will demonstrate their support for the principles of academic freedom by actively and openly working toward a climate that will foster this freedom.

Such participation will extend to the point of defending and supporting any tenured or untenured faculty member who, while maintaining the high standards of the profession, finds his/her freedom of expression attacked or curtailed.

The academic freedom of students is the freedom to express and to defend their views, to question, and to differ with the views of their instructors or the district, without penalty.

MiraCosta Community College District

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Adoption History: 4/21/09

Periodic Review: 6/16/15

Reference Update: 11/14

References: Title 5, §51023

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges

Eligibility Requirement 20

Accreditation Standard I.C.7

American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure