



BP 4030

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

References:

- Title 5 Section 51023;
- ACCJC Accreditation Eligibility Requirement 20;
- ACCJC Accreditation Standard I.C.7 ;
- 1940 AAUP Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure

Academic freedom is essential in institutions of higher education if they are to make their proper contribution to the common good. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. This search for truth justifies academic freedom, not the interest of the individual faculty member or even the interest of a particular college or university.

Academic freedom is the freedom to engage in research, scholarship, or other creative work in order to expand knowledge, to publish research findings, to teach and to learn in an atmosphere of unfettered free inquiry and exposition.

Freedom of expression is a legal right protected by the Constitution of the United States. Members of the faculty of Santa Barbara City College are entitled to freedom of expression, provided such expression does not impede or prevent responsible performance of job requirements or interfere with the mission and goals of Santa Barbara City College (SBCC).

SBCC faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties.

SBCC faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom and/or other teaching environments in discussing their subject matter. Controversy is a normal aspect of free academic inquiry and teaching, and it is proper to incorporate both the knowledge and beliefs of the faculty member into that which is taught. However, the freedom to teach must be joined by a constant effort to distinguish between knowledge and belief. Faculty members should allow the expression of differing points of view, while being careful to avoid the repeated and excessive intrusion of material that has no relation to their subject matter. SBCC faculty members have the individual right and responsibility to select textbooks and other course materials, consistent with the approved Course Outline of Record, and as appropriate, in consultation with their department, program, or



disciplinary colleagues, for each of the classes they teach.

SBCC faculty members are both citizens and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline. However, they should identify themselves and make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution. When they speak or write as officers of an educational institution, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, and should show respect for the opinions of others.

Freedom of expression and academic freedom should be limited to no greater degree in electronic format than in printed or oral communication, unless and to the degree that unique conditions of new media warrant different treatment. While expression in an electronic format is obviously different in important ways from print or oral expression – for example, in the far greater speed of communication, and in the capacity to convey messages to far wider audiences – such factors do not appear to justify alteration or dilution of basic principles of academic freedom and free inquiry within the academic community.

Excerpted and modified from 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 interpretative comments, AAUP (paragraphs 2, 3, and 4); Academic Freedom and Electronic Communications, AAUP, 1997 (paragraph 5); Policy Statement on “Academic Freedom and Professional Ethics,” Pasadena Community College, 2001; and Faculty Handbook, Boston University, 1987.

See AP 3430 Prohibition of Harassment

Date Adopted: September 25, 2014

Legal Reference Update #25: November 2014