

SECTION: Academic

SUBJECT: Academic Freedom and Responsibility

Title: Academic Freedom and Responsibility

Point of Contact: Office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Other LCSC offices directly involved with implementation of this policy, or significantly affected by the policy:

Date of approval by LCSC authority: 6/27/84

Date of State Board Approval: N/A

Date of Most Recent Review: September 2024

Summary of Major Changes incorporated in this revision to the policy: None

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interests of either the individual faculty member or the institution as a whole. Academic freedom is essential for the protection of the rights of the faculty member in teaching and of the student in learning. Freedom in research and teaching is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom carries with it responsibilities correlative with rights.

I. Teaching

The faculty member is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject material, but should not introduce matters not germane to the subject material.

II. Research

The faculty member is entitled to freedom in research and the publication of the results. However, research for pecuniary return, when that research is a part of the faculty member's assigned duties or when the research involves use of institutional facilities or resources not usually available to the general public, may be undertaken only with prior written approval of the president or designee.

III. Responsibilities

Membership in the academic community imposes on administrators, faculty members, other institutional employees, and students an obligation to respect the dignity of others, to acknowledge the right of others to express differing opinions, and to foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instructions, and free expression on and off campus of an institution.

- A. Each faculty member of the institution is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and a representative of the institution. When speaking or writing as a citizen, the faculty member should be free from institutional censorship or discipline. However, as a member of the

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academic community and a representative of Lewis-Clark State College, the faculty member 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 he or she is not an official spokesperson for the institution. Furthermore, each faculty member must refrain from using institutional resources for the furtherance of his or her interests or activities which are not a part of the assigned responsibilities to the institution.