

Section: **III. Academic Affairs**

Subsection: **A. Academic Freedom and Responsibility**

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### **III. Academic Affairs**

#### **A. Academic Freedom and Responsibility**

In adopting the following statements concerning academic freedom and responsibility, the Board of Trustees affirms that academic freedom should not be abridged or abused and joins the numerous other organizations which have endorsed such principles.

1. Academic Freedom. Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual faculty member or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. 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 faculty member in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. It carries with it duties correlative with rights.
  - a. The faculty member is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his/her other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
  - b. The faculty member is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his/her subject, but he/she should be careful not to introduce into his/her teaching controversial matter which has no relation to his/her subject.
  - c. The faculty member is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he/she speaks or writes as a citizen, he/she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his/her special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a person of learning and an educational representative, he/she should remember that the public may judge his/her profession and his/her institution by his/her utterances. Hence he/she 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/she is not an institutional spokesperson.
2. Academic Responsibility. Membership in the academic community imposes on students, faculty members, and administrators an obligation to respect the dignity of others, to acknowledge their right to express differing opinions, and to foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and expression on and off campus. The expression of dissent and the attempt to produce change, therefore, may not be carried out in ways which injure individuals or damage institutional facilities or disrupt the classes of one's teachers or colleagues. Speakers on campus must not only be protected from violence, but given an opportunity to be heard. Those who seek to call attention to grievances must not do so in ways that significantly impede the functions of the institution. Students are entitled to an atmosphere conducive to learning and to even-handed treatment in all aspects of the teacher-student relationship. Faculty members may not refuse to enroll or teach students on the

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**I. Academic Affairs (continued)**

**A. Academic Freedom and Responsibility (continued)**

**2. Academic Responsibility (continued)**

grounds of their beliefs or the possible uses to which they may put the knowledge to be gained in a course. Students should not be forced by the authority inherent in the instructional role to make particular personal choices as to political action or their own part of society. Evaluation of students and the award of credit must be based on academic performance professionally judged and not on matters irrelevant to that performance, whether personality, race, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, degree of political activism, or personal beliefs.

It is the faculty members' mastery of their subjects and their own scholarship which entitle them to their classrooms and to freedom in the presentation of their subjects. Thus, it is improper for faculty members persistently to intrude material which has no relation to their subjects, or to fail to present the subject matter of their course as announced to their students and as approved by the faculty in their collective responsibility for the curriculum.

Because academic freedom has traditionally included the faculty member's full freedom as a citizen, most faculty members face no insoluble conflicts between the claims of politics, social action, and conscience, on the one hand, and the claims and expectations of their students, colleagues, and institutions, on the other. If such conflicts become acute, and the faculty members' attention to their obligations as citizens and moral agents precludes the fulfillment of substantial academic obligations, they cannot escape the responsibility of that choice, but should either request leaves of absence or resign their academic positions.

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Section: **III. Academic Affairs**

Subsection: **B. University Calendar**

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**III. Academic Affairs (continued)**

**B. University Calendar**

1. The University shall develop a University Calendar containing significant academic dates and events during the twelve-month period commencing with each fall term. The University Calendar shall become effective when approved by the President and shall be published in the official University Catalog. The University Calendar and any changes shall be submitted to the Board by the President.
2. The University Calendar shall contain the following dates and such other dates as are necessary and appropriate: opening and closing dates of each term; registration dates, including the date after which a fee for late registration will be charged; last day for withdrawal; final examination periods; recognized holidays; vacations; and commencement.

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Section: **III. Academic Affairs**

Subsection: **C. Degrees**

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**III. Academic Affairs (continued)**

**C. Degrees**

1. Earned Degrees

- a. The University shall develop requirements for earned degrees. The requirements and any changes shall become effective when approved by the President.
- b. Earned degrees shall be conferred by the University pursuant to the authority vested in the Board upon satisfactory completion of all degree requirements and recommendation to the President by the faculty. At the discretion of the President, and upon satisfactory completion of all degree requirements, students may receive their degrees prior to scheduled commencement exercises.

2. Honorary Degrees

a. Criteria

Honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board to persons who have achieved a record of major distinction at the state or national level in such areas as education, public service, research, humanities, business, or the professions. In exceptional circumstances, honorary degrees may be awarded to persons who, though they have not achieved national or statewide recognition, have made an especially outstanding and significant contribution to the University or higher education.

b. Procedure

Honorary degrees may be awarded only by approval of the Board upon the recommendation of the President. The President shall establish a representative committee, composed of faculty and academic staff, which shall recommend to the President proposed honorary degree recipients selected from nominations by the faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Unless an exception is approved by the President, Board approval of candidates must be obtained at least two months prior to the award of the degree and not more than two honorary degrees may be awarded by the University each year.

c. Limitations

Elected or appointed public officials in state or local government, members and employees of the Board, and members and employees of the Board of Higher Education are ineligible for award of an honorary degree during their term of office or employment.

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Section: **III. Academic Affairs**

Subsection: **D. Academic Programs and Plans**

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**III. Academic Affairs (continued)**

**D. Academic Programs and Plans**

1. The Board will receive an annual report of curricular and administrative changes which includes the following:
  - a. Addition of a new organized set of courses within a major, e.g., option, concentration, specialization, or sequence to an existing degree program;
  - b. Addition of an externally funded research or public service activity labeled as a center or institute because of grant requirements;
  - c. Addition of a new minor;
  - d. Change in a degree title, e.g., the name of a discipline or major without changes in objectives or content;
  - e. Change in the name of an administrative (including departments), research, or public service unit;
  - f. Creation of a certificate program in a field in which there is a previously approved degree program;
  - g. Creation of a joint degree program from two previously approved programs;
  - h. Reclassification (change of CIP) of a program resulting from incremental changes or consolidation of two or more degree programs into a single program; and,
  - i. Changes in degree designation at the same level.

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Subsection: **D. Academic Programs and Plans**

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**III. Academic Affairs (continued)**

**D. Academic Programs and Plans (continued)**

2. The Board will receive an agenda report for the following curricular and administrative changes:
  - a. Creation of a new unit that does not have an instructional, research, or public service mission including new units that might be named department, division, center, or institute;
  - b. Elimination of an existing degree program;
  - c. Reorganization, restructuring, consolidation, elimination, and other changes of existing administrative (including departments), research, or public service units that does not result in an increase in subunits;
  - d. Creation of a new, formally organized research or public service unit that has a temporary mission of up to five years;
  - e. Creation of a certificate program in a field or at a level in which there is not a previously approved degree program at that level or higher level;
  - f. Creation of a new program that results from the reorganization or restructuring of the curricular elements of an existing program that have over time evolved into separate and distinct programs; and,
  - g. Offer of an existing degree program off-campus in Region #4.
3. The Board must approve an agenda resolution for the following curricular and administrative changes:
  - a. Creation of a degree program in a new field or at a new level (on-campus and off-campus);
  - b. Creation of new units of instruction, research, or public service that involve a change or expansion in mission including programs, departments, colleges, centers or institutes, or other formally organized units; and,
  - c. Creation of a new campus.

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Section: **III. Academic Affairs**

Subsection: **E. Grants and Contracts**

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**III. Academic Affairs (continued)**

**E. Grants and Contracts**

1. The University shall develop policies concerning grants and contracts. The policies and any changes shall become effective when approved by the President.

The policies shall contain the following provisions and such other provisions as are necessary and appropriate:

- a. Provisions for the review and administration of grants and contracts which shall ensure their consistency with the University's academic mission, instructional commitments, and financial capabilities.
  - b. Provisions to ensure that persons engaged in grant or contract funded activities do not have conflicts of interest that could compromise the integrity of the activities and the University.
  - c. Provisions to safeguard human subjects involved in research activities.
2. Grants and contracts that do not require Board of Higher Education approval shall be approved by the President.
  3. The President shall submit a quarterly report to the Board on grants and contracts.