NWACC
Archived Master Policy
Section 3: Learning Programs and Services
General Academic Policies

Academic Freedom 3-7-2

Policy:

All members of the faculty are entitled to academic freedom as generally defined in the 1940 Statement of the Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure formulated by the Association of American Colleges and the Association of University Professors. Relevant provisions of this statement are as follow:

1. A teacher 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 college.
2. The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject being taught, but she/he should be careful not to introduce into the teaching controversial matter which has no relation to the subject and should not permit personal prejudice to interfere with his/her grading of the students on their performance in the class.
3. The College instructor is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When she/he speaks or writes as a citizen, she/he should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but the instructor's special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a person of learning and an educational officer, the faculty member should remember that the public may judge his/her profession and institution of his/her utterances. Hence she/he 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 she/he is not an institutional spokesperson. The instructor shall not use the classroom to promote personal political views or theories at the expense of other established views and/or theories. Academic freedom also extends to students who have the right to expect quality instruction in all classes. In addition, each student has the right to fair evaluation from each instructor. The student has the right to a complete explanation of the evaluation procedure at the beginning of each course. Furthermore, she/he has the right to reasonable access to each instructor for assistance as may be needed.

_____ Legal Reference:
Association of American Colleges and the American Association of University Professors, Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure, 1940
Adopted: September, 2000

Revised: September, 2008