

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The Board of Trustees and the Academic Senate of the Redwoods Community College District, in an effort to promote and protect the academic freedom of faculty and students, endorse the following policy adapted from the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure (including the 1958 and 1970 interpretative comments of the American Association of University Professors).

- A. Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing issues germane to their academic discipline. Academic freedom inherently involves the right to introduce within the assigned teaching discipline controversial topics, concepts, issues, and systems as long as the method or manner of presentation involves objective reasoning and rational discussion.
- B. Faculty members are citizens, members of a profession, and employees of an education institution. When faculty members speak or write as citizens, thereby exercising their constitutional right of free speech, it should be as persons who are free from institutional censorship or discipline. In the process of making such utterances, faculty members have a responsibility to make a clear distinction between personal viewpoints and the college's official policies.
- C. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the administration of the college.
- D. The protection of academic freedom and the requirements of academic responsibility apply to full-time probationary, tenured, and part-time faculty.

Reference: Title 5 Section 51023; Accreditation Standard II.A.7

Adopted by Board of Trustees: 12/5/06

Former Policy #326, "Academic Freedom," Adopted by the Board of Trustees: 8/15/77