

UNIVERSITY COUNTERPROPOSAL

9-12-13

ACADEMIC FREEDOM, FREE SPEECH AND FACULTY RESPONSIBILITY

Preamble.

As stated in the Mission Statement, the university "strives to enrich the public that sustains it through the conviction that freedom of thought and expression is the bedrock principle on which university activity is based." Academic freedom and freedom of speech are necessary conditions to teaching and research. This policy establishes a robust view of academic freedom and freedom of speech in order to facilitate excellence in teaching and research and to ensure that faculty can participate in shared governance.

Section 1. Academic Freedom. The University protects academic freedom and bargaining unit faculty members shall enjoy all of its benefits and responsibilities. These are defined as:

- a. The freedom to conduct research and creative work and to publish or otherwise disseminate the results of that work. Within the broad standards of accountability established by their profession and their individual disciplines, faculty members must enjoy the fullest possible freedom in their research and in circulating and publishing their results. This freedom follows immediately from the university's basic commitment to advancing knowledge and understanding.
- b. The freedom to teach, both in and outside of the classroom. Faculty members must be able not only to disseminate to their students the results of research by themselves and others in their profession, but also to train students to think about these results for themselves, often in an atmosphere of controversy that, so long as it remains in a broad sense educationally relevant, actively assists students in mastering the subject and appreciating its significance.


Section 2. Faculty Responsibilities. Academic responsibility implies the competent and full performance of duties and obligations and the commitment to support the responsible exercise of academic freedom by one's self and others. Each bargaining unit faculty member has the responsibility to:

- a. Observe and uphold the ethical standards of his or her discipline in the pursuit and communication of scientific and scholarly knowledge;
- b. Treat students, staff, colleagues, and the public fairly and with respect in discharging his or her duties and in accordance with this Agreement and University Policy No. 01.00.16 (Freedom of Inquiry and Free Speech), approved by the president on December 28, 2010..

- c. Respect the integrity of the evaluation process, evaluating students, staff, and colleagues fairly according to the criteria and procedures specified in the evaluation process;
- d. Represent one's self as speaking for the university only when expressly authorized to do so as part of one's position or professional responsibilities;
- e. Participate, as appropriate, in the system of shared academic governance, especially at the department or unit level, and seek to contribute to the civil and effective academic functioning of the bargaining unit faculty member's academic unit (program, department, school or college) and the university.

Section 3. All bargaining unit faculty members are guaranteed the protections of freedom of speech, as derived from the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Section 8 of the Article I of the Constitution of the State of Oregon and University Policy No. 01.00.16 (Freedom of Inquiry and Free Speech), approved by the president on December 28, 2010. When faculty members speak or write as members of the public, they should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the university. They may identify their university affiliation so long as no university sponsorship or endorsement is stated or implied.

Freedom of Inquiry and Free Speech

 (<http://policies.uoregon.edu/print/132>)

Last Updated: 07/01/2010

Effective Date: 07/01/2010

RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY OFFICE AND CONTACT PERSON

[Academic Affairs](http://academicaffairs.uoregon.edu/) (<http://academicaffairs.uoregon.edu/>)

Doug Blandy (<mailto:dblandy@uoregon.edu>)

POLICY NUMBER:

01.00.16

REASON FOR POLICY:

To describe University policy and commitment regarding free speech and freedom of inquiry.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The University of Oregon values and supports free and open inquiry. The commitment to free speech and freedom of inquiry described in this policy extends to all members of the UO community: Faculty, staff, and students. It also extends to all others who visit or participate in activities held on the UO campus.

Free speech is central to the academic mission and is the central tenet of a free and democratic society. The University encourages and supports open, vigorous, and challenging debate across the full spectrum of human issues as they present themselves to this community. Further, as a public institution, the University will sustain a higher and more open standard for freedom of inquiry and free speech than may be expected or preferred in private settings.

Free inquiry and free speech are the cornerstones of an academic institution committed to the creation and transfer of knowledge. Expression of diverse points of view is of the highest importance, not solely for those who present and defend some view but for those who would hear, disagree, and pass judgment on those views. The belief that an opinion is pernicious, false, and in any other way despicable, detestable, offensive or "just plain wrong" cannot be grounds for its suppression.

The University supports free speech with vigor, including the right of presenters to offer opinion, the right of the audience to hear what is presented, and the right of protesters to engage with speakers in order to challenge ideas, so long as the protest does not disrupt or stifle the free exchange of ideas. It is the responsibility of speakers, listeners and all members of our community to respect others and to promote a culture of mutual inquiry throughout the University community.

Access to UO facilities and space is governed by a complementary policy, [Scheduling Use of UO Facilities](#). ([/policy/by/1/04000-facilities/scheduling-use-facilities](#))

EXCLUSIONS AND SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

The UO recognizes the contribution made by the University of Michigan policy statements and practice guides in this formulation of UO Policy.

FORMS/INSTRUCTIONS:

[Scheduling Use of UO Facilities. \(/policy/by/1/04000-facilities/scheduling-use-facilities\)](#)

WHO IS GOVERNED BY THIS POLICY:

All staff, faculty, students, and visitors at the University.

WHO SHOULD KNOW THIS POLICY:

Anyone who visits or participates in activities held on the UO campus.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Richard W. Lariviere, President

Date: 12/28/2010

ISSUED BY:

Senior Vice President and Provost

Date: 06/07/2010

REVISION HISTORY:

Revision 1:

In January 2010, the Provost charged a work group, led by Russ Tomlin, to review and revise the current Campus Speakers policy. The work group included representatives from the faculty (Margie Paris-Law, Tim Gleason-SOJC), administration (Brian Smith-VPFA, Kathie Stanley-VPFA, and Beverlee Stilwell-Provost Office) and General Counsel (Randy Geller). The workgroup was also supported administratively by Pam Palanuk and Marilyn Skalberg.

The workgroup developed a draft policy that was discussed with the Faculty Advisory Council, the Deans, and Leadership Council. The draft policy was posted for comment on both the Provost's and Senate websites.

The final version incorporating revisions based on the ensuing feedback was reviewed and adopted by the Senate with minor revisions at its last meeting of May 26, 2010. The policy was approved by the Executive Leadership Team on June 7, 2010.

12/28/2010 Approved by President. [signature document> /files/policy-library/uploads/Lariviere_12-28-10_approval.pdf](#)

uopolicy@uoregon.edu
Telephone: (541) 346-3186
Johnson Hall - 2nd Floor Room 202
Office of the Senior Vice President and
Provost

Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm

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