

Policy Statement

Academic freedom is an essential characteristic of an institution of higher education that encompasses the right of faculty to full freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, freedom in research and in the publication of results, and the right to be free from institutional censorship or discipline when they speak or write as citizens.

All members of the faculty at Finger Lakes Community College are entitled to freedom of academic speech in the classroom in discussing their subjects and material relating directly to them. However, they shall not introduce into their teaching controversial material that has no relation to their subjects. Faculty members are entitled to freedom of speech as related to research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic responsibilities. Research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

Likewise, it is expected that the aforementioned teaching will be directed toward achieving the educational objectives agreed upon by the faculty, administration and Board of Trustees. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment.

All members of the FLCC faculty are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When faculty members speak or write as citizens, they shall be free from institutional censorship or discipline; however, they must recognize that their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As teachers and persons of learning and an educational officer, FLCC faculty members must remember that the public may judge their profession and institution by their words. Therefore, FLCC faculty should at all times be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and make every effort to indicate that they are speaking as private citizens and without reference to their position within the institution.

Reason for Policy

This policy has been implemented to ensure freedom in academic speech while maintaining an appropriate level of responsibility to teaching, free of controversial, non-course related material.

Applicability of the Policy

All faculty, staff and students should be familiar with this policy.

Definitions

None

Related Document

- FLCC Student Code of Conduct & Grievance Procedures

Procedures

No separate procedures statement

Forms/Online Processes

None

Appendix

None

Review date/action taken (requires Board of Trustees approval):

- May 2010: original approval date
- Fall 2012: no revisions
- Fall 2014: no revisions