

 <b>CAPILANO UNIVERSITY</b>		<b>POLICY</b>	
Policy No.	Officer Responsible		
<b>S2003-01</b>	<b>Senate</b>		
Policy Name			
<b>Academic Freedom</b>			
Approved by	Replaces	Category	Next Review
<b>Senate</b>	<b>EC2003-01 / 9031</b>		
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<b>February 2003</b>	<b>May 2010</b>		

Academic freedom is the freedom to engage in teaching, learning, research, or other creative work in order to expand knowledge and to do so in an atmosphere of free inquiry and exposition. Academic freedom is the right to examine, question, teach and learn in an environment that supports the need to investigate, speculate, and comment without reference to prescribed doctrine.

Academic freedom is essential in institutions of higher education if they are to make their proper contribution to the common good; the common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. This belief, and not the interest of the individual faculty member or even the interest of a particular institution, is the justification for academic freedom.

Faculty members are entitled to academic freedom when teaching and discussing subject matter and when engaging in research, scholarship, publishing or producing creative work, subject to the responsible performance of these and other academic duties. The right of faculty to academic freedom carries with it the duty and responsibility to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base research and teaching on an honest search for knowledge.

Controversy is a normal aspect of teaching and academic enquiry, and the knowledge and the beliefs of a faculty member may be incorporated into that which is taught. The freedom to teach and to learn, however, must be joined by a constant effort to distinguish between knowledge and belief. Freedom must be exercised in the context of a commitment to accuracy and integrity.

As part of their teaching activities, faculty members are entitled to conduct frank discussion of potentially controversial matters related to their subjects. This freedom of expression shall be based on mutual respect for the opinions of students and other members of the academic community.

As faculty members, librarians have a duty to promote and maintain intellectual freedom. Consequently they have the right to express their academic judgement in the development of the library collection even if materials may be considered controversial.

Faculty members also have the right to exercise their legal rights as citizens and should not suffer any penalties from the exercise of such rights. When faculty members communicate as citizens, they must be free from institutional censorship or discipline. As members of a learned profession, and as representatives of an educational institution, faculty members may choose, or may be called upon, to

communicate publicly in an area of expertise or on behalf of an area of the University. In such instances, it is appropriate for them to identify themselves as members of the University community, but faculty members should not present their views on any matter, in any medium, (e.g. speech, writing or social media) as the official position of the University.