

## **Academic Responsibility**

The concept of academic freedom must be accompanied by an equally demanding concept of responsibility, shared by governing boards, administrators, and faculty members.

The essential responsibilities of governing boards and administrators are set forth in guidelines established by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The fundamental responsibilities of a faculty member as a teacher and scholar include a maintenance of competence in his field of specialization and the demonstration of such competence in lectures, discussions, publications, and exhibitions.

Exercise of professional integrity by a faculty member includes recognition that the public will judge his profession and institution by his statements. Therefore, he should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinions of others, and to avoid creating the impression that he speaks or acts for his college when he speaks or acts as a private person.

It is understood that a faculty member is always judicious in the use of controversial material in the classroom and introduces such material only when it has a clear relationship to his subject field.