

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE

Academic Freedom

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a free search for truth and its free expression. Hence, it is essential that the faculty member be free to pursue scholarly inquiry without undue restriction and to voice and publish his conclusions concerning the significance of evidence that he considers relevant. He must be free from the corrosive fear that others, inside or outside the college community, may threaten his professional career or the material benefits accruing from it because their vision may differ from his own.

Each faculty member is entitled to full freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject which he teaches.

Each faculty member is also a citizen of his nation, state, and community and, when he speaks, writes, or acts as such, must be free from institutional censorship or discipline.

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.

Employment of Instructors

Instructors shall be appointed at the first regular meeting of the Board of Trustees in April. New teaching positions and vacancies may be filled at other meetings of the Board.

In the filling of vacancies and new positions on the faculty the following guidelines will be applied: