

# Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

## Academics

POLICY NAME: Faculty Academic Freedom

POLICY NUMBER: 4650

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### **A. PURPOSE**

To establish the responsibilities and privileges of academic freedom for faculty of the Nebraska State Colleges.

### **B. DEFINITIONS**

None

### **C. POLICY**

#### **1. Faculty Academic Freedom**

The portion of the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, formulated by the Association of American Colleges and the American Association of University Professors and paraphrased below, is endorsed by the Board.

- 1.1. A teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; however, research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the College.
- 1.2. A teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but should be careful not to introduce controversial matter which has no relation to the subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the College should be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment.
- 1.3. The College teacher is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When speaking or writing as a citizen, the teacher should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but a teacher's special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a person of learning and an educational officer, the teacher should remember that the public may judge the teaching profession and the College by their utterances. Hence, a teacher should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should

show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not an institutional spokesperson.

- 1.4. The Board places particular emphasis on 1.2 and 1.3 above relating to the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, which members of the profession and professional organizations associate with this important concept of American life.

## **FORMS/APPENDICES**

None

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### **SOURCE:**

**Policy Adopted:** January 1977

**Policy Revised:** October 1979, March 1989, June 1993, March 2022