Rights and Responsibilities of Faculty Members as Citizens and as Teachers

The following statement on academic freedom is taken verbatim from the Regents' Rule 31004. It is essentially the same policy as recommended by the AAUP.

A complete set of the Regent's Rules are available online.

Sec. 1 Freedom in Research. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results.

Sec. 2 Freedom in the Classroom. Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his or her subject, but are expected not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter that has no relation to his or her subject.

Sec. 3 Clarification of Role. Faculty members are citizens, members of learned professions, and officers of an educational institution supported by the State of Texas. When the faculty member speaks or writes as a citizen, he or she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but should make it plain that the faculty member is not an institutional spokesperson.

Sec. 4 Primary Duties. The primary duties of a member of the faculty are to:

  4.1 Teaching. Teach in the classroom, laboratory, seminar, or clinical setting.
  4.2 Research. Study, investigate, discover, create, and develop professionally.
  4.3 Administration. Perform curricular tasks auxiliary to teaching and research, e.g., serving on faculty committees, attending to administrative and disciplinary tasks, fostering intellectual curiosity and integrity in the student body.
  4.4 Contribution to Society. Use their professional expertise to benefit society.

Sec. 5 Compensation Restriction. Full-time faculty or staff of the rank of instructor or above on 12-month appointments may receive additional compensation for correspondence course and/or extension center teaching, but may not receive additional compensation for summer school teaching. Full-time faculty on nine-month appointments may receive additional compensation for correspondence course and/or extension center teaching during the nine-month period and also may be paid for summer school teaching.