

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD POLICY

6.15010 BP

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

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Academic freedom is essential to the search for truth and to the free exercise of the right of expression by all parties of the academic family. The district shall encourage a free exchange of ideas and opinions representing a broad spectrum of positions and points of view. In particular, the board endorses the following statement on academic freedom and supports its tenets:

- I. Officers of an educational institution and college instructors, members of a learned profession, are citizens. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As members of a learned profession and as educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and institution by their utterances. Hence, faculty members should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinion of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.
- II. Instructors are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of other policies of the district shall be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment.
- III. Instructors are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return shall be based upon the appropriate policies of the district.

In addition, academic freedom provides for the student the right to freedom of inquiry and expression and the right to be judged on the basis of performance in assigned tasks, and not on the basis of viewpoint.

Adopted: Board of Trustees
January 16, 1975
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