

TITLE 2 - Nevada System of Higher Education CODE

CHAPTER 2

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

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Section 2.1 Declaration of Policy

- 2.1.1 Higher Education and the Common Good.** Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual member of the faculty or the institution. The continued existence of the common good depends upon the free search for truth and knowledge and their free exposition.
- 2.1.2 Academic Freedom.** Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and is applicable to both teaching and research. Freedom in teaching is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth and knowledge. A member of the faculty has freedom and an obligation, in the classroom or in research, to discuss and pursue the faculty member's subject with candor and integrity, even when the subject requires consideration of topics which may be politically, socially or scientifically controversial. In order to ensure the freedom to seek and profess truth and knowledge, as stated in Section 2.3 of the Nevada System of Higher Education Code, the faculty member, as defined in Section 2.2 of this chapter, shall not be subjected to censorship or discipline by the Nevada System of Higher Education on grounds that the faculty member has expressed opinions or views which are controversial, unpopular or contrary to the attitudes of the Nevada System of Higher Education or the community.
- 2.1.3 Academic Responsibility.** The concept of academic freedom is accompanied by the equally demanding concept of academic responsibility. A member of the faculty is responsible for the maintenance of appropriate standards of scholarship and instruction.
- 2.1.4 Acts Interfering with Academic Freedom.** The Nevada System of Higher Education is committed to the solution of problems and controversies by the method of rational discussion. Acts of physical force or disruptive acts which interfere with Nevada System of Higher Education activities, freedom of movement on the campuses or freedom for students to pursue their studies are the antithesis of academic freedom and responsibility, as are acts which in effect deny freedom of speech, freedom to be heard and freedom to pursue research of their own choosing to members of the faculty or to invited guests of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

(B/R 4/02)

Section 2.2 Applicability

Academic freedom is the right of all members of the faculty, part-time or full-time, including graduate assistants and fellows, in the Nevada System of Higher Education. Academic freedom is also extended to the invited guests of the Nevada System of Higher Education.

(B/R 4/02)

Section 2.3 Freedoms and Responsibilities

- 2.3.1 Freedom in Research.** A member of the faculty is entitled to full freedom in research and in the professional publication of the results, subject to the satisfactory performance of the faculty member's other academic duties.
- 2.3.2 Freedom to Publish.** A member of the faculty is entitled to full freedom to publish literary, academic, technical or other noteworthy works as required in the performance of the faculty member's duties and/or obligations to the Nevada System of Higher Education.
- 2.3.3 Freedom in the Classroom.** A member of the faculty is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing a subject, but the faculty member should be careful not to persist in discussing matters, which have no relation to the subject taught.
- 2.3.4 Faculty as Citizens.** A member of the faculty is a citizen of the community, a member of a learned profession and an employee of an educational institution. A faculty member speaking, writing or acting as a citizen shall be free from institutional censorship or discipline.
- 2.3.5 Obligations and Responsibilities.** The special position of a member of the faculty imposes special obligations and responsibilities. As a person of learning and an employee of an educational institution, a faculty member should remember that the public may judge the profession and the institution by the faculty member's utterances and acts. Therefore, a faculty member should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others and should indicate clearly that the faculty member is not an institutional spokesperson.

(B/R 4/02)