

4012.                    ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The Superintendent-President is responsible for administering the academic freedom regulations.

4012.1                Rationale

- A. Long Beach City College is an integral part of higher education in the State of California.
- B. One of the characteristics of higher education is its concern for freedom of inquiry and expression.
- C. The freedom of inquiry and expression mandates a climate in which ideas may be freely presented, examined, and discussed. Therefore, in their roles as educators, counselors, and researchers, faculty must have a reasonable expectation of privacy and the academic freedom to express their viewpoints on academic and professional matters in their communications whether they take verbal or written form.
- D. Institutions of higher learning are established for the improvement of society. A free society requires citizens who are well-schooled in its traditions and norms and who can also lead in the critical evaluation of those traditions and norms. Therefore, the content of the ideas advanced by faculty members, inside or outside the classroom, while subject to open debate may not be used against them in a punitive way so long as those ideas do not violate any federal, state, or local laws or federal, state, local, or district regulations.
- E. Today's technologically enhanced learning environment requires that academic freedom must extend to electronic expression, including, but not limited to, web pages, blogs, electronic information searches, and email communications as it relates to their roles as educators, counselors, and researchers.
- F. Despite the priority given to academic freedom in the articles above, faculty have professional responsibilities that accompany such freedom. These are delineated in Regulation 4012.3 (Statement of Professional Ethics) and for students in the Student Code of Conduct. In particular, faculty need to demonstrate respect for all employees and students regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, religious beliefs, political ideologies, disability, sexual orientation, age, or socioeconomic status. Also, faculty should avoid creating the impression that he or she speaks or acts for the college when he or she speaks or acts as a private citizen.

- G. A community college must be responsive to the needs of the community it serves by providing an academic atmosphere for students and faculty in which questioning is encouraged and where many alternatives can be explored, while fostering an environment where one may follow wherever scholarly inquiry leads.

4012.2      Regulations

- A. Faculty shall be free from censorship in the selection of class materials, presentations, guest speakers and the planning and/or supervision of student performances, as long as he or she has followed approved procedures and the selections can be justified by an approved course outline.
- B. Faculty shall be free from censorship and punitive sanctions for their correspondences, publications, public speeches, or other non-verbal speech acts such as protests and demonstrations related to academic and professional matters, so long as these do not violate the California Education Code or the Statement of Professional Ethics (Regulation 4012.3).
- C. The individuals arranging and supervising authorized speakers on campus addressing academic and professional matters shall be free from censorship as long as he or she has followed approved procedures as delineated in Regulation 4007.
- D. The College Library shall maintain a formal criteria and procedure statement governing the selection, maintenance and discarding of library materials.

4012.3      Statement of Professional Ethics (Adopted by Academic Senate October 15, 2010)

In keeping with the policy on academic freedom, the faculty are committed to an ethical code of conduct in their relationships to their profession, their students, their colleagues, their college, and their community.

Rationale

- 1. As a scholar, the faculty member is guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity in advancing knowledge, and recognizes a scholar's responsibility to seek and state the truth as he or she sees it. As a scholar, the faculty member:

- a. devotes his or her energies to developing and improving his or her scholarly competence.
  - b. accepts the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment.
2. As a teacher, the faculty member encourages the free pursuit of learning in his or her students by holding before them the best scholarly standards of his or her discipline. As a teacher, the faculty member:
- a. demonstrates respect for all students regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs, political ideologies, disability, sexual orientation, age, or socioeconomic status.
  - b. evaluates students consistently and fairly based on the merits of their work and conduct.
  - c. respects the confidential nature of the relationship between teacher and student.
  - d. avoids any favoritism, exploitation, or harassment in his or her relationship with students.
  - e. protects the student's academic freedom.
  - f. addresses academic dishonesty in a consistent manner and in accordance with institutional policies.
3. As a member of a professional staff, the faculty member has an obligation to respect and defend the free inquiry of his or her colleagues. As a colleague, the faculty member:
- a. treats others respectfully even when they disagree with the other's opinion or action.
  - b. strives to be objective in his or her professional judgment of colleagues.
  - c. accepts a fair share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of the college.
4. As a member of the college staff, the faculty member is committed to the health and welfare of the college as a whole. As a member of the college staff, the faculty member:
- a. adheres to regulations and policies of the institution.
  - b. facilitates as much as possible the work of all segments of the college.
  - c. determines the amount and character of the work done outside the college with due regard to his or her paramount responsibilities within it.

- d. recognizes, when considering the interruption or termination of his or her service, the effect of that decision upon the program of the college and gives due notice of his or her intentions.
5. As a member of the community, the faculty member is committed to the general welfare of the community and of society at large. The faculty member may therefore feel obliged to speak out, demonstrate, or publish on any number of social and political issues. In this role the faculty member will:
    - a. avoid creating the impression that he or she speaks or acts for the college when he or she speaks or acts as a private citizen.
    - b. avoid using the classroom to make partisan recommendations regarding political candidates and ballot propositions.
    - c. promotes public understanding of the role of the college in the community.

Revised: December 17, 1987; May 28, 2013