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**Administrative Procedure**  
Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

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## **AP 4030 ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

### **References:**

Title 5 Section 51023;  
ACCJC Accreditation Eligibility Requirement 20;  
ACCJC Accreditation Standard I.C.7;  
California Senate Resolution No. 45

### **Responsibilities**

The Vice President, Academic Affairs and Vice President, Student Services are responsible for administering the academic freedom procedures.

### **Definitions**

- A. **Academic Freedom:** Academic freedom means the freedom of teaching faculty to teach, conduct research, provide student-facing services, and speak as citizens without interference or restraint by the institution, boards of trustees, political figures, or other entities.
- B. **College and University Faculty:** citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution (per the 1940 American Association of University Professors statement on academic freedom and tenure). LBCC faculty includes: discipline faculty, counselors, librarians, and instructional specialists.

### **Rationale**

- A. Long Beach City College is an integral part of higher education in the State of California.
- B. Freedom of thought and expression are necessary for every higher education institution.
- C. Academic freedom is foundational for the free flow of knowledge, ideas, and governance on college campuses. The freedom of thought and expression mandates a climate in which ideas may be freely presented, examined, and discussed. Therefore, in their roles as educators, counselors, librarians, instructional specialists, 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 learning environment requires that academic freedom must extend to electronic expression, including, but not limited to, web pages, blogs, electronic information searches, and electronic communications as it relates to their roles as educators, counselors, librarians, instructional specialists and researchers.
- F. Per the American Association of University Professors statement, when college and university teachers write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their unique position in the community imposes special obligations. These are delineated in the Statement of Professional Ethics included in this procedure below, and for students in the Student Code of Conduct. In particular, faculty need to demonstrate respect for all protected classes. As scholars and educational officers, faculty should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, and should make every effort to indicate they are not speaking for the institution. Faculty should avoid creating the impression that he/she/they speaks or acts for the college when he/she/they 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.
- H. The college may be engaged in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility work, requiring necessary, valuable, and potentially uncomfortable conversations and dialogue, and faculty across the state are engaging in these conversations with students in their classrooms.

## **Procedures**

- 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/she/they 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.
- C. The individuals arranging and supervising authorized speakers on campus or virtual environments addressing academic and professional matters shall be free from censorship as long as he/she/they has followed approved procedures.
- D. The College Library shall maintain a formal criteria and procedure statement governing the selection, maintenance and discarding of library materials.

### **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/she/they sees it. As a scholar, the faculty member:
  - a. devotes his/her/their energies to developing and improving his/her/their 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/her/their students by holding before them the best scholarly standards of his/her/their discipline. As a teacher, the faculty member:
  - a. demonstrates respect for all students and all protected classes.
  - 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/her/their 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 freedom of thought and expression of his/her/their 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/her/their 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/her/their paramount responsibilities within it.
  - d. recognizes, when considering the interruption or termination of his/her/their service, the effect of that decision upon the program of the college and gives due notice of his/her/their 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/she/they speaks or acts for the college when he/she/they 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.

See BP 4030 Academic Freedom.

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*(Replaces LBCC Administrative Regulation 4012)*