

Article 4 - Academic Freedom

Section 1. CSN is operated for the common good of the greater community it serves. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom is the right of scholars in institutions of higher education freely to study, discuss, investigate, teach, and publish. Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and scholarly/creative work. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. It carries with it responsibilities correlative with rights.

Section 2. This Agreement incorporates the current Academic Freedom Policy adopted by the American Association of University Professors (The American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure).

Section 3. Both the protection of academic freedom and the requirements of academic responsibility apply not only to the full-time probationary and the tenured teacher, but also to all others, such as part-time faculty and teaching assistants, who exercise teaching responsibilities.

Section 4. Speech by professors in the classroom at public institutions is protected under both the First Amendment and the professional concept of academic freedom if the speech is “germane to the subject matter.” Faculty academic freedom, unlike that of students, is not only an individual but also a collective right, informed by professional expertise and peer review. Professors must be allowed to select readings to assign in their courses without having to provide “equal time” for every competing viewpoint. (AAUP, Academic Freedom of Students and Professors, and Political Discrimination). Nothing herein shall be interpreted to permit or condone speech or conduct that is not protected by the first amendment or that may be deemed illegal or negligent pursuant to any court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 5. 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. As a teacher/faculty, he or she is entitled to teach within his/her special competence. Teachers 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. In return for these guarantees, the scholar and the teacher owe unlimited allegiance to the pursuit of truth and understanding.

Section 6. The exercise of Academic Freedom under this article shall not be deemed insubordination for the purpose of discipline.