



BOARD POLICY

No. 200

TITLE: Academic Freedom
DATE ADOPTED: November 2, 2018
EFFECTIVE DATE: November 2, 2018
SUPERSEDES: August 1, 1985

PURPOSE:

Rowan College at Burlington County, an institution of higher education, exists in order to provide opportunity for individuals to pursue educational attainment and to fulfill the stated Mission and Goals of the College. It is understood that this common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition, and not to further the interest of any individual teacher, or the institution as a whole.

POLICY:

A. Academic Freedom

Academic freedom is essential to the stated purpose of the College and applies to both teaching and research. 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.

With this in mind, the Board hereby adopts the following statement on academic freedom (modeled after the 1940 statement on Principles of Academic Freedom as set forth originally by the American Association of University Professors and subsequently approved by numerous other organizations).

1. The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return must be based upon an understanding with the College as set forth in the provisions contained in this agreement pertaining to patents and copyrights.



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2. The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing subject matter, but should be careful not to introduce controversial matter which has no relation to the subject currently being taught.
 3. The college teacher is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When the college teacher speaks or writes as a citizen, he/she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his/her special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a scholar and an educational officer, the college teacher should remember that the public may judge one's profession and institution by his/her utterances. Hence, he/she should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that he/she is not an institutional spokesperson.

B. Professional Behavior

1. The Board and the Association jointly recognize the following Code of Ethics as an acceptable criteria of professional behavior:
 - a. The professor, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognizes the special responsibilities placed upon him/her. The professor's primary responsibility to the subject is to seek and to state the truth as he/she sees it. To this end, the professor devotes his/her energies to developing and improving scholarly competence. The professor accepts the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. The professor practices intellectual honesty. Although he/she may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise freedom of inquiry.
 - b. As a teacher, the professor encourages the free pursuit of learning in students. The professor holds the best scholarly standards of the discipline. The professor demonstrates respect for the student as an individual, and adheres to a proper role as intellectual guide and

counselor. The professor makes every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that his/her evaluation of students reflects their true merit. The professor respects the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. The professor avoids any exploitation of students for his/her private advantage, acknowledges significant assistance from them, and protects their academic freedom.

- c. As a colleague, the professor has obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. The professor respects and defends the free inquiry of his/her associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, the professor shows due respect for the opinions of others. The professor acknowledges his/her academic debts and strives to be objective in the professional judgment of colleagues.
 - d. As a member of an institution, the professor seeks above all to be an effective teacher and scholar. Although the professor observes the stated regulations of the institution, provided they do not contravene academic freedom, he/she maintains the right to criticize and seek revision. The professor determines the amount and character of the work he/she does outside the institution with due regard to his/her paramount responsibilities within it. When considering the interruption or termination of his/her service, the professor recognizes the effect of this decision upon the program of the institution and gives due notice of his/her intentions.
 - e. As a member of the community, the professor has the rights and obligations of any citizen. The professor measures the urgency of these obligations in the light of his/her responsibilities to the subject, to students, to the profession, and to the institution. When the professor speaks or acts as a private person, he/she avoids creating the impression that he/she speaks or acts for the college or university. As a citizen engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, the professor has a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.
2. The Association accepts the responsibility of dealing with ethical problems in accordance with the terms of the Code.



3. Alleged breaches of this Code of Ethics shall be promptly reported to the offending faculty member and the President of the Association.

C. Tenure

A faculty member obtains tenure in accordance with the provisions of Title 18A:60-1, N.J.S.A. as the same may be amended or supplemented.

President

Date:

Chairman

Date: