

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

PURPOSE

To state the University's position on academic freedom.

POLICY

1. The Board of Trustees and the Massachusetts Teachers Association/NEA endorse the principles and standards of academic freedom and academic responsibility as generally and traditionally accepted in institutions of higher education. They agree to promote public understanding and support of academic freedom and agreement upon procedures to assure academic freedom in colleges and universities. Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research.
2. Academic freedom is the right of scholars in institutions of higher education to study, discuss, investigate, teach, exhibit, perform, and publish. 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 learning.
3. The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the exhibition, performance, and publication of the results of his/her research, to full freedom in the classroom in discussing his/her subject, and most specifically in the selection of classroom materials including selection of texts. The teacher is entitled to discuss controversial issues. As both a teacher and scholar he/she recognizes a professional obligation to present various scholarly opinions and to avoid presenting totally unrelated materials.
4. Faculty members have the right to determine the amount and character of the work and other activities they pursue outside the university provided such work and other activities do not interfere with the discharge of their responsibilities.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.