

November 2011

## 5.101 Academic Freedom

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Type of Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>University</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Campus</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Department/Unit</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Interim</b>		<b>Academic Freedom</b>  <b>Policy 5.101</b>	
<b>Academic Policies</b>		Effective date: November 4, 2011	
<b>Policy History:</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Resolution #</b>	<b>Date</b>
Approved	Chancellor	N/A	July 22, 2011
Approved (no revisions)	Board of Governors	11.4.11:5	November 4, 2011
<b>Responsible Office</b>	<b>Responsible Administrator:</b>	<b>Contact information</b>	<b>Applies to:</b>
University Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs	Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs	937-769-1890	All Faculty

## I. Introduction

### A. Purpose

Antioch University adheres to the principles of academic freedom and intellectual pluralism as both a declaration of rights and responsibilities.

As articulated and endorsed by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), academic freedom “is the essential characteristic of an institution of higher education. It encompasses the right of faculty to full freedom in research and in the publication of results, freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, and the right of faculty to be free from institutional censorship or discipline when they speak or write as citizens.”

This policy exists not only to protect the rights and recognize the responsibilities of faculty, but to support a faculty teaching and student learning environment within which students may acquire the knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to effectively demonstrate personal and collective agency, global citizenship and socially conscious leadership, all of which are needed to address the challenges and complexities of increasingly diverse societies.

Academic freedom and intellectual pluralism are aligned with and in support of Antioch University’s mission. These principles contribute to a climate in which debate about complex and challenging subjects and issues about which reasonable people will disagree is encouraged and

engaged within a spirit of openness, tolerance and civility. To vigorously assert a proposition or a viewpoint, however controversial, is to engage in discourse and debate, which is at the very heart of academic freedom.

This policy informs the nature of faculty engagement in student learning, scholarship, university citizenship, and community service.

## **II. Engagement in Student Learning**

Faculty members are entitled to full academic freedom in the engagement of student learning. This freedom extends to classroom teaching, program development, and to any other student learning setting. While entitled to these rights, faculty should be guided by the principle that the material presented in class serves the primary purpose of advancing student learning in the context of the course, learning activity or program objectives. A faculty member does not have the right to behave in ways that can be reasonably viewed as intimidating students who express a contrary view.

## **III. Engagement in Faculty Scholarship**

Faculty members are entitled to full academic freedom in research and creative activity, in the publication, exhibition, or performance of the results, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties and the requirements of research ethics and responsibilities.

## **IV. Engagement in University Citizenship and Engagement in Community Service**

Faculty members have the right to express their thoughts freely and openly, unrestrained by threat of censorship or discipline, while making every effort to indicate that they do not speak for Antioch University. As persons of learning, members of a learned profession, and officials of the university, faculty members have a special obligation to at all times strive to be accurate, demonstrating respect for the opinions of others.

As a matter of both principle and policy, Antioch University will not discipline, demote, dismiss, or decline to reappoint or sanction a faculty member on the basis of the exercise of any of the academic freedoms listed above. Further, Antioch University will not intimidate any faculty member through the implication that one will be disciplined, sanctioned, demoted, dismissed, or declined reappointment on the bases of the exercise of any of the academic freedoms listed above.

In support of the protection of academic freedom, it is the right of every Antioch University faculty member to have access to a fair and objective appeal process, in accordance with campus procedures and Antioch University policies.

### **Policy Cross Reference**

Faculty Grievance Policy	Policy # 5.333
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