

Article __ - Academic Freedom

Statement on Academic Freedom

The faculty and administration of Oregon State University jointly accept the responsibility for maintaining an atmosphere in which scholars may freely teach, conduct research, publish, and engage in other scholarly activities. This responsibility includes maintaining the freedom for the examination of controversial issues throughout the University, including classroom discussion when such issues are germane to the subject matter of the course.

The University does not attempt to control the personal opinion, nor the public expression of that opinion, of any member of the faculty or staff of the institution. Indeed, the faculty and administration of Oregon State University feel a responsibility to protect the right of each employee to express his or her personal opinion, but in doing so, employees have an obligation to avoid any action which purports to commit the institution to a position on any issue without appropriate approval.

Statement of Faculty Responsibilities

The faculty of Oregon State University recognizes and accepts the special responsibilities incumbent on each of its members.

As a scholar in an academic discipline, each faculty member is expected to:

- Seek and state the truth as the faculty member sees it
- Develop and improve the faculty member's scholarly competence
- Exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge to diverse audiences on and off-campus
- Contribute to the development of the discipline
- Practice intellectual honesty

As a teacher, each faculty member is expected to:

- Encourage free pursuit of learning and free inquiry in students
- Exemplify high scholarly standards
- Improve the faculty member's instructional methods while ensuring that the primacy of the instructional function of the academic area is upheld
- Respect students as individuals while adhering to the proper role as intellectual guide
- Foster honest academic conduct and fair evaluation of students
- Protect the academic freedom of students and their rights of access to the University

As a member of the University community, each faculty member is expected to:

- Respect and defend the right of free inquiry of fellow faculty members
- Show due respect for the rights of others to hold and express their opinions

- Accept a share of the governance tasks of the University
- Be objective in the judgment of the professional capabilities and performance of colleagues