

Texas Woman's University University Regulation and Procedure

Regulation and Procedure Name: Academic Freedom

**Regulation and Procedure
Number: URP: 02.300**

Policy Owner: Academic Affairs

POLICY STATEMENT

Institutions of higher education exist 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 expression. Academic freedom is essential to the promotion of common good and applies to both teaching and research. 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. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. It carries with it duties correlative with rights (AAUP, 1940).

APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to TWU Faculty.

DEFINITIONS

None.

REGULATION AND PROCEDURE

I. Academic Freedom

Texas Woman's University recognizes that:

- A. The right of academic freedom shall be the right of every faculty member whether tenured or untenured.
- B. Each faculty member is a citizen and a member of a learned profession, as well as an employee of an educational institution. When he/she speaks or writes as a citizen, he/she shall be free from institutional censorship or discipline. When acting as a private citizen, the faculty member has an obligation to make it clear that he/she speaks, writes, and acts for himself/herself and is not acting as a representative of Texas Woman's University.

- C. The fundamental responsibilities of a faculty member as a scholar and teacher include maintenance of competence in his or her field of specialization and the exhibition of such professional competence.
- D. Faculty members 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.
- E. It is essential that each faculty member be free to pursue scholarly inquiry and to voice and publish conclusions concerning the significance of evidence.

II. Institutional Governance

Within the University community, academic freedom includes the right to participate in the governance of the institution and to offer opinions free from reprisal.

REVIEW

This policy will remain in effect and published until it is reviewed, updated, or archived. This policy is to be reviewed once every six years. Interim review may be required as a result of updates to federal and state law or regulations, Board of Regents policies, or internal processes or procedures.

REFERENCES

None

FORMS AND TOOLS

None

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