

Texas Woman's University University Regulation and Procedure

Regulation and Procedure Name: Professional Ethics for Faculty

**Regulation and Procedure
Number: URP: 02.399**

Policy Owner: Academic Affairs

POLICY STATEMENT

Faculty members, as teachers, scholars, colleagues, university community members, and representatives of Texas Woman's University, have special responsibilities by virtue of the diverse roles they assume in academic life. The following statement sets forth general principles intended to serve as a guide for faculty as they fulfill their professional responsibilities. This policy supplements the TWU Ethics Policy for Employees. In developing a statement of faculty responsibilities and ethical standards, Texas Woman's University subscribes to the belief that self-regulation is preferable to any externally imposed discipline. The following policy has been adapted and modified from the AAUP "Statement on Professional Ethics" (1987).

APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to TWU Faculty.

DEFINITIONS

None

REGULATION AND PROCEDURE

- I. Professional Ethics for Faculty
 - A. Professors, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the unique responsibilities placed upon faculty to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end, they must devote their energies to develop and improve scholarly competence. Faculty are obligated to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They must be aware of their limitations, including their levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities. Professors must seek to be cognizant of current trends and developments in their professional areas. They are expected to practice intellectual honesty at all times.

- B. Professors encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before students the best scholarly standards for their discipline. They demonstrate respect for students as individuals and adhere to their proper role as intellectual mentor. Faculty refrain from acting in a way that may prove demeaning or discriminating to a student. They make every reasonable effort to assure that the evaluation of students reflects the students' true merits. Professors recognize the confidential nature of the relationship between instructor and student (Family Educational rights and Privacy Act, 1998). Acknowledging that they hold power over their students, faculty avoid exploitation, either in a psychological, financial, or sexual manner.
- C. As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. Professors do not discriminate against or harass colleagues. They respect and defend the free inquiry of associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, faculty show due respect for the opinion of others and strive to be objective. They accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of the institution and put forth honest effort in the performance of their duties.
- D. As members of their institution, faculty seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although they observe the stated regulations, provided they do not contravene academic freedom within the institution, they maintain the right to criticize and seek revision. Professors determine the amount and character of the work they do outside the institution with due regard to their paramount responsibilities within it.
- E. As members of the community, professors have the rights and responsibilities of citizens. They measure the urgency of the obligations in the light of their responsibilities to the student, to their profession, and to their institution.
- F. University standards described in this policy are the minimum requirements applicable to all members of the faculty, and the standards serve as the foundation for any additional promotion and tenure criteria established by individual academic components (AC). Academic component criteria are subject to university review and approval as described in the section below entitled "Establishment of Academic Component Standards."
- G. TWU explicitly recognizes the importance of academic freedom in the conduct of higher education and embraces the principles set forth in the *1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments* as issued by the American Association of University Professors.

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

<p>Publication Date:</p> <p>Next Review:</p>
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