



## BOV POLICY # 28 (2018) ACADEMIC FREEDOM

<b>Policy Title:</b>	Academic Freedom
<b>Policy Type:</b>	Board of Visitors
<b>Policy Number:</b>	BOV Policy #28 (2018)
<b>Approval Date:</b>	May 4, 2018
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Faculty Senate
<b>Responsible Executive:</b>	Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
<b>Applies To:</b>	University Community

### POLICY STATEMENT

The strength of any institution of higher education is deeply rooted within its academic enterprise. Norfolk State University aspires to the ideals of academic freedom, and is committed to fostering a supportive community where collaboration, continuous improvement, and professional growth are deeply engrained in who we are as a community, and how we operate as a University.

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**DEFINITIONS** – None.

### CONTACTS

The University Board of Visitors officially interprets this policy. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions as required by BOV Policy # 01 (2014) *Creating and Maintaining Policies* through the appropriate governance structures. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.



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### **POLICY CONTENTS**

Norfolk State University recognizes, appreciates, and supports the concept of academic freedom, and the First Amendment rights of members of the academy. In applying these concepts, the University is guided by, among other things, the American Association of University Professors' 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, which provides as follows:

- (a) Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
- (b) Teachers 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. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment.
- (c) College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all time be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinion of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

### **PUBLICATION**

This Policy shall be widely published or distributed to the University community. To ensure timely publication and distribution thereof, the Responsible Office shall make every effort to:

- Communicate the policy in writing, electronically or otherwise, to the University Community within 14 days of Board approval;
- Submit the Policy for inclusion in the online Policy Library within 14 days of Board approval;
- Post the Policy on the Board's Website; and
- Direct appropriate offices to educate and train all stakeholders and appropriate audiences on the Policy's content, as necessary.

Failure to satisfy procedural requirements does not invalidate this Policy.



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### **REVIEW SCHEDULE**

- Next Scheduled Review: September 2020
- Approval by, date: Board of Visitors, 05/04/2018
- Revision History: None – New Policy
- Supersedes: None – New Policy

**RELATED DOCUMENTS** – None.

**FORMS** – None.