

The board recognizes that a body of laws, a legislative system, and judicial review provide criteria and methods for differentiating license from freedom and that no individual or groups of individuals should be permitted to force its tastes, morality, or beliefs upon even the smallest minority.

Academic freedom is the right of the instructor to interpret his/her findings and communicate his conclusions in the pursuit of truth within the course and scope of the instructor's assigned curriculum free from any interference, molestation, or fear of penalty because his conclusions may disagree with those of individuals, constituted authorities, or organized groups outside the college. However, in exercising this right, the instructor must not confuse liberty with license.

Academic freedom carries with it a corresponding responsibility which emphasizes the obligation, within an instructor's assigned curriculum, to study, to investigate, to present and interpret, and to discuss facts and ideas concerning man, society, and the physical and biological world in all branches and fields of knowledge. Since human knowledge is limited and changeable, the instructor will acknowledge respect for opinions held by others. While striving to avoid bias, he/she will nevertheless present conclusions to which he/she believes the evidence points.

Likewise, the academic freedom of the student is the freedom to express and to defend his/her views and beliefs and the freedom to differ, without authoritative repression and without scholastic penalty by the faculty or the college.

Furthermore, it is recognized that the college instructor is a member of a learned profession and professional employee of an educational institution. His/her position in the community, therefore, imposes special obligations, since the public may judge his/her profession and his/her institution by what he/she says or writes as a citizen.

With regard to the general purposes of the courses offered by the college, all staff members of the college will be guided by the recommendations of the Curriculum, Academic Standards and Articulation committee, the administration, and the policies approved by the governing board.

To support for Mohave Community College these principles of academic freedom, the administration of the college and the Governing Board will at all times demonstrate their support by actively and openly working toward a climate which will foster this freedom. Such participation will extend to the point of defending and supporting any faculty member who, while in the course and scope of performing his/her assigned duties, and maintaining the high standards of his/her profession within the instructor's assigned curriculum, finds his/her freedom of expression attacked or curtailed.

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References: