

2-18 Academic Freedom

College of The Albemarle is dedicated to the dissemination of knowledge; to the engendering and development of skills, competencies and understandings; and to the nurturing of those personal and intellectual habits and attitudes, which are peculiar to responsible individuals in a free, open, democratic society. Therefore, the College guarantees and protects academic freedom.

The college endorses the American Association of University Professors' 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom as follows:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

Source:

<http://www.aaup.org/aaup/pubsres/policydocs/contents/1940statement.htm>

The process for addressing complaints alleging violation of academic freedom is as follows:

1. The faculty member submits a written complaint along with supporting documentation to the Vice President of Learning.
2. The Vice President of Learning forms an ad hoc committee of five faculty to review the complaint. The chair will be identified at this time.

3. The review committee evaluates the case and submits a written recommendation with supporting documentation to the Vice President of Learning.
4. The Vice President of Learning will consider the review committee's recommendation, and then issue a decision in writing. The decision may differ from the recommendation of the review committee.
5. If the faculty member does not agree with the Vice President of Learning's decision as outlined in Step 4, the faculty member may appeal the decision by submitting a written appeal to the President.
6. The President will consider all previous decisions and supporting documentation, then issue a final decision that cannot be appealed.