

**HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER HANDBOOK OF OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Chapter 3	Faculty Policies and Procedures	Effective:	February 2000
Section 3.2	Rights, Responsibilities, and Duties of the Faculty	Revised:	May 2005
<b>Policy 3.2.2</b>	<b>Academic Freedom and Responsibility</b>	Responsibility:	Vice President for Academic Administration

## **ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY**

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### **Policy**

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a free search for truth and its free expression. Hence, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties, the faculty member will be free to pursue scholarly inquiry without undue restriction, and to voice and publish conclusions concerning the significance of evidence that are considered relevant. A faculty member must be free from the corrosive fear that others, inside or outside the Health Science Center community, because their philosophy may differ, may threaten his or her professional career or the material benefits accruing from it.

Exercise of professional integrity by a faculty member includes recognition that the public will judge the profession and the institution by his or her statements. Therefore, a faculty member should strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinions of others, and to avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting for the School or the Health Science Center when speaking or acting as a private person.

Each faculty member is entitled to full freedom in the classroom in discussing the subject taught, but is expected not to introduce into teaching controversial matter which has no relationship to the subject. Each faculty member is a citizen and, when speaking or writing as such, will be free from institutional censorship or discipline.

The fundamental responsibilities of a faculty member as a teacher and scholar include a maintenance and demonstration of competence in the field of specialization.

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