



# Idaho State University

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Academic Freedom

#### ISUPP 4040

#### *POLICY INFORMATION*

**Policy Section:** *Academic Affairs*

**Policy Title:** *Academic Freedom*

**Responsible Executive (RE):** *Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost*

**Sponsoring Organization (SO):** *Faculty Senate*

**Dates: Effective Date:** *May 2002 (8-1-2018)*

**Revised:** *March 30, 2023*

**Review Date:** *March 2028*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Idaho State University's central functions of teaching, learning, research, and scholarship depend upon an atmosphere in which freedom of inquiry, thought, expression, and publication are given the fullest protection. Expression of the widest range of viewpoints should be encouraged, free from institutional orthodoxy, and from internal or external coercion. Further, the holding of appointments at Idaho State University should in no way affect the Faculty members' rights assured by the Constitution of the United States. Idaho State University affirms that Academic Freedom is a fundamental tenet of higher education that should not be abridged or abused. Academic Freedom ensures that Faculty and Students are free to exercise their teaching, service, scholarly activity, and other academic functions.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Academic Freedom:** A long-standing philosophical, legal, and constitutional principle of freedom of speech that advances the right of postsecondary Students, Faculty, and institutions to pursue educational opportunities that seek, examine, apply, discuss, and build knowledge, theories, values, concepts, or ideas without fear of censorship, retaliation, or threat to institutional status.

- B. **Academic Responsibility:** The commitment by Students, Faculty, and institutions to strive to protect the Academic Freedom of others by appreciating their special position in the community, performing academic obligations with intellectual honesty, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and showing respect toward those with whom they both agree and disagree.
- C. **Faculty:** Individuals employed to forward the academic mission of Idaho State University through teaching, research, service, and other scholarly contributions.
- D. **Students:** Any person duly admitted and enrolled at Idaho State University.

### III. POLICY STATEMENT

The University, Faculty, and Students are expected to embody Academic Freedom by creating and encouraging a safe environment to express, explore, and challenge their views.

### IV. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has the authority and responsibility to update and review this policy as necessary. It is expected that any suggested changes to this policy will also be addressed in collaboration with the Faculty Senate.

### V. PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT

- A. Faculty Rights Pertaining to Academic Freedom
  - 1. Pedagogy and Curriculum Development
    - a. Faculty have the right to determine course content, including the use of relevant materials, subject to institutional curriculum development processes and policies.
    - b. Faculty have the right to determine the instructional methodologies used to engage learners in the course content; to evaluate and assess Student performance, subject to institutional policies and accreditation standards.
  - 2. Research, Publication, and Creative Activity
    - a. Faculty may pursue research topics of their choosing, pursuant to applicable policies.

- b. Faculty have the right to publish and present their research as well as engage in the production and exhibition of creative works, within the requirements of Board Policy V.M. related to intellectual property.
  - c. Faculty are entitled to attribution for discoveries, creative works, and original research.
3. Participation in Institutional Governance
- a. Faculty have the right to participate in institutional governance.
  - b. Faculty have the right to express opinions and provide feedback concerning institutional governance and administration without fear of censorship or retaliation.
  - c. In matters of promotion, tenure, and disciplinary action, Faculty have the right to due process and to be judged by their peers using established academic standards and institutional procedures.
  - d. Faculty have the right to participate in institutional processes that determine who may teach, what may be taught, how it shall be taught, and what methods will be used for Student admission.
4. Public Discourse
- a. Faculty have the right to participate in public debate both within and beyond their areas of professional expertise.
- B. Faculty Responsibilities Pertaining to Academic Freedom
1. Pedagogy and Curriculum Development
- a. Faculty are responsible for presenting the content in their courses in a way that is consistent with the collective goals of the institution, college, and department or program. When presenting content, Faculty may expose Students to an intellectual diversity of scholarly and creative views related to the Faculty member's discipline and/or specific field of study.
  - b. Faculty may not refuse to enroll or teach a Student because of the Student's beliefs, interpretations, or applications of knowledge.
  - c. Faculty shall meet their workload requirements established in their employment agreements. This may include the expectation that the Faculty member conducts class, meets with and mentors' Students, provides clear learning outcomes, and/or participates in group deliberations to develop instructional programs.

## 2. Research, Publication, and Creative Activity

- a. Faculty members are expected to maintain professional competence in their field(s) of specialization.
- b. Significant assistance from Students is acknowledged in publication of the results of research.
- c. Faculty members do not plagiarize nor do they permit the appearance that they are the author of work done by others.
- d. Faculty members do not falsify data either by deliberate fabrication or selective reporting with the intent to deceive.
- e. Faculty members do not misappropriate other's ideas.
- f. Faculty members do not misuse privileged or otherwise confidential information.

## 3. Participation in Institutional Governance

- a. Faculty are responsible for participating in institutional processes to establish goals for Student learning, to design and implement general programs of education and specialized study that intentionally cultivate intended learning, and to assess Students' achievement.

## 4. Public Discourse

- a. As a member of the academic community and a representative of the institution, each Faculty member should at all times be intellectually honest, exercise appropriate restraint, and make every effort to indicate that they are not an official spokesperson for the institution unless, in fact, they are.
- b. Each Faculty member must refrain from using institutional resources to further their interests or activities which are not a part of the assigned responsibilities to the institution.

## C. Limitations

The following limitations exist to the Academic Freedom and Academic Responsibility of Faculty and institutions:

1. Academic Freedom does not allow acts which violate the Academic Freedom or constitutional rights of others.
2. Academic Freedom does not permit members of an institutional community to harass, threaten, or intimidate others.

3. Academic Freedom does not protect Faculty members from colleague or Student challenges to, or disagreement with, their instructional methods.
4. Academic Freedom does not protect Faculty from institutional or non-institutional penalties for violating the law.
5. Academic Freedom does not confer the right to Faculty to violate institutional policies; though Academic Freedom does confer the right of Faculty to criticize such policies.
6. Academic Freedom does not protect Faculty from disciplinary action consistent with established institutional policies.
7. Academic Freedom does not protect Faculty from sanctions or dismissal for professional misconduct or poor performance consistent with established institutional policies.
8. Academic Freedom does not protect Faculty from investigations into allegations of, or discipline for, scientific misconduct or other violations of institutional policy

## **VI. RELATED LAWS, RULES, AND POLICIES**

- A. Idaho SBOE Governing Policies and Procedures
  1. III.B Academic Freedom and Academic Responsibility
  2. V.M Intellectual Property
- B. ISUPP 4039 *Faculty Suspension or Dismissal for Adequate Cause*
- C. ISUPP 4041 *Grievance Procedures for Institutional Faculty*