Academic Freedom Resources

Members of the UC Davis campus sometimes have questions about what academic freedom is, and whether particular problems they may have encountered constitute incursions on their academic freedom. The Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (CAFR) put together this document to help campus members find answers to these questions.

1. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND UC DAVIS POLICIES AND STATEMENTS ABOUT ACADEMIC FREEDOM

A. Selected provisions, Academic Personnel Manual

Academic Personnel Manual 010: General University Policies Regarding Academic Freedom

Academic Personnel Manual 015: Faculty Code of Conduct

B. Websites of Senate academic freedom committees

University Committee on Academic Freedom

UC Davis Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

C. Selected provisions, UC Davis Policy and Procedure Manual (Office of the Chancellor)

Chapter 400, Section 01: Freedom of Expression

Chapter 310, Section 24: Electronic Communications—Privacy and Access. This section provides UC Davis (UCD) implementing procedures for the privacy and disclosure of Electronic Communications (EC) records.

Chapter 230, Section 10: Sponsored Programs, Publication Rights. This section provides guidance regarding the University’s publication rights, and policies with respect to external research sponsors who may seek to limit faculty publication rights.

D. Resources from Other Campuses

UCLA’s Faculty Resource Guide for California Public Records Act Requests


E. Academic Council Statement

Academic Council Statement on Academic Freedom and Civility (April 2015)

2. GENERAL STATEMENTS REGARDING PRINCIPLES AND SOURCES OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM
A. Materials from the American Association of University Professionals (AAUP). The AAUP seeks to “advance academic freedom and shared governance, define fundamental professional values and standards for higher education, and ensure higher education's contribution to the common good.”

1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure

Resources on Academic Freedom. This webpage has links to the AAUP’s Policy Statements and Reports; papers and primers on academic freedom and the law; and links to the AAUP’s investigations and “censures” of university administrations for academic freedom transgressions.

Policy Documents and Reports (a/k/a “The Redbook”). Purchase required. The AAUP's Policy Documents and Reports presents in convenient format a wide range of policies, in some instances formulated in cooperation with other educational organizations. The current edition, the eleventh, includes basic statements on academic freedom, tenure, and due process; academic governance; professional ethics; research and teaching; online and distance education; intellectual property; discrimination; collective bargaining; accreditation; and students' rights and freedoms.

Journal of Academic Freedom. Publishes scholarship on academic freedom and on its relation to shared governance, tenure, and collective bargaining.

B. Primers and Other Brief Commentaries on Academic Freedom. The following represents a somewhat idiosyncratic and no doubt incomplete list of shorter works on academic freedom that members of CAFR have found to be of particular value.

Academic Freedom Primer - By Ann Franke, former Senior Counsel, AAUP

Defining Academic Freedom – By Cary Nelson, author of Saving Academic Freedom (NYU, 2010) and former AAUP president

C. Academic Freedom and the Law. (See the AAUP’s Resources page for additional materials.)

Dean Robert Post, Provost’s Forum talk on foundations of academic freedom (March 2014, video)

Jefferson v. Cuccinelli: Does the Constitution really protect a right to “academic freedom?” – By Dahlia Lithwick and Richard Schragger

If there are any questions regarding the Committee on Academic Freedom & Responsibility, please contact Sierra Feldmann in the Academic Senate Office at smfeldmann@ucdavis.edu.