

Resolution on Academic Freedom
Board of Governors
University of North Carolina

Whereas, The University of North Carolina, the oldest public university in America, has throughout its history supported and endorsed the free exchange of ideas; and

Whereas, it is a primary responsibility of the University's faculty to extend and enhance the intellectual horizons of the students in the University's constituent institutions; and

Whereas, as part of their university experience, students are expected to be challenged by the introduction of new ideas, philosophies, and practices; and

Whereas, University administrators and this Board of Governors have an abiding duty to ensure that the environment at the University of North Carolina is conducive to the exercise of academic freedom; and

Whereas, the Code, which governs the affairs of the University, contains an emphatic expression of the Board of Governors' commitment to the values of academic freedom and the freedom of inquiry; and

Whereas, the Board of Governors is entrusted with oversight and governance of the constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina; and

Whereas, any challenge to the academic freedom of one of the University's constituent institutions is a challenge to all of those institutions; and

Whereas, individuals and groups have attempted to override decisions made by faculty and administrators in the execution of their academic responsibilities;

Whereas, the American Association of University Professors asserts that, "The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research"; and

Whereas, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the accrediting body for the University of North Carolina, mandates that "Faculty and students **must** be free to examine all pertinent data, question assumptions, be guided by the evidence of scholarly research. . . . [and] the board **must** not be subject to undue pressure from political, religious, or other external bodies. . . . [and] should protect the administration from similar pressures";

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Governors reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom and to its current and longstanding statement on academic freedom and responsibility found in the Code as set forth below:

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND TENURE

SECTION 600. FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY.

(1) The University of North Carolina is dedicated to the transmission and advancement of knowledge and understanding. Academic freedom is essential to the achievement of these purposes. The University therefore supports and encourages freedom of inquiry for faculty members and students, to the end that they may responsibly pursue these goals through teaching, learning, research, discussion, and publication, free from internal or external restraints that would unreasonably restrict their academic endeavors.

(2) The University and each constituent institution shall protect faculty and students in their responsible exercise of the freedom to teach, to learn, and otherwise to seek and speak the truth.

(3) Faculty and students of the University of North Carolina shall share in the responsibility for maintaining an environment in which academic freedom flourishes and in which the rights of each member of the academic community are respected.

SECTION 601. ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY OF FACULTY.

(1) It is the policy of the University of North Carolina to support and encourage full freedom, within the law, of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research, and publication for all members of the academic staffs of the constituent institutions. Members of the faculty are expected to recognize that accuracy, forthrightness, and dignity befit their association with the University and their position as men and women of learning. They should not represent themselves, without authorization, as spokesmen for the University of North Carolina or any of its constituent institutions.

(2) The University and its constituent institutions shall not penalize or discipline members of their faculties because of the exercise of academic freedom in the lawful pursuit of their respective areas of scholarly and professional interest and responsibility.