

Article ___: Academic Freedom

Academic freedom and freedom of speech are necessary conditions to teaching, research, scholarship, and service. Academic freedom ensures that bargaining unit members have the freedom to teach, conduct research, engage in internal university discussion, and participate in public debate. In discharging their duties, bargaining unit members must treat students, staff, colleagues, and the public, fairly and with respect.

Section 1. Subject to the terms found elsewhere in this Article or Agreement, bargaining unit members shall have the freedom to teach, both inside the classroom and other required instructional activities such as internships, externships, laboratories, and field trips. Bargaining unit members' must use best teaching practices to train students to think critically and interpret information for themselves. Such training often occurs in an atmosphere of controversy that, so long as it remains educationally relevant, actively assists students in their pursuit of knowledge.

Selection of instructional materials and definition of course content should be left to bargaining unit members' discretion so long as both are consistent with departmental practices, the University's mission, and programmatic and institutional accreditations. However, bargaining unit members should be careful not to introduce matter into their teaching and assessment strategies which have no relation to course subject.

Section 2. Subject to the terms found elsewhere in this Article or Agreement, bargaining unit members shall have the freedom to conduct research, scholarship, and to publish, display, or otherwise disseminate the results of their research or scholarship to students, the public, and others in their profession. The commitment to academic freedom in scholarship and research does not imply that a bargaining unit member's research and scholarship are not subject to critical review and judgement as to its quality and significance, or broad standards of accountability established by their profession and their individual disciplines.

Section 3. Subject to the terms found elsewhere in this Article or Agreement, bargaining unit members shall have the freedom to participate, as appropriate, in the system of shared governance, and contribute to the academic functioning of their academic unit, college, department, program, and the university.

Section 4. Consistent with Oregon Tech's campus speech and posting policies, bargaining unit members are guaranteed the protections of freedom of speech, as derived from the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America and Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Oregon. When bargaining unit members speak or write as members of the public, they shall indicate that they are doing so in their

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individual capacity, not for or on behalf of the University. They may identify their University affiliation so long as no University sponsorship or endorsement is stated or implied. Bargaining unit members should at all times strive to be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, and show respect for the opinions of others.

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