

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
General Faculty Standing Committee
Faculty Center
1216 East Mabel P.O. Box 210456
621-1342 (Fax: 621-8844)
facsen@u.arizona.edu

Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure
Approved by the UA Faculty Senate, September 14, 2009

Academic Freedom at the University of Arizona

Academic freedom is one of the primary ideals upon which The University of Arizona was founded and continues to be a core value. The major premise of academic freedom is that open inquiry and expression by faculty and students is essential to the University's mission. Academic freedom shall be understood to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Academic freedom protects faculty from any and all arbitrary interferences with their ability to carry out their missions in research, creative activities, teaching, service and outreach.
- Academic freedom is essential to the fundamental mission of discovering and advancing knowledge and disseminating it to students and the society at large.
- Academic freedom enables faculty members to foster in their students a mature independence of mind, and this purpose cannot be achieved unless students and faculty are free within the laboratory, classroom, and elsewhere to express the widest range of viewpoints in accord with standards of scholarly inquiry.
- Academic freedom extends to expressing opinions concerning matters of shared governance, leadership, or the functioning of the University and the units within.
- An essential component of academic freedom is the right of faculty members to be free from any adverse action resulting in whole or in part from the exercise of freedom of speech, belief, or conscience in any venue, to the maximum extent consistent with the fulfillment of clearly defined teaching, creative activity, research, service or clinical obligations.
- A core aspect of academic freedom is the right to due process sufficient to minimize the risk that adverse actions are taken, even in part, as a result of the faculty member's exercise of academic freedom.
- Academic freedom includes the right to criticize existing institutions (including leadership, professions, paradigms and orthodoxies).