





Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech at UArizona: A Brief Review

Presented to Faculty Senate by Jessica Summers, Chair of the Faculty


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Academic Freedom is essential for the well-functioning of academic institutions, and their ability to create and disseminate knowledge. Academic Freedom undergirds the right of faculty to teach from their disciplines free from unreasonable or arbitrary restrictions, both in and outside the classroom, to conduct research and publish, perform, or exhibit the results of that creative activity, and to address matters of institutional policy or governance.



ABOR Policy on Academic Freedom,
June 2018



The primary function of Arizona's public universities is to promote the discovery, improvement, transmission and dissemination of knowledge through research, teaching, discussion and debate. The universities must strive to ensure the fullest degree of intellectual freedom and free expression. It is not the proper role of a university to shield individuals from speech protected by the First Amendment, including ideas and opinions that may be unwelcome, disagreeable or deeply offensive.

ABOR Policy on Freedom of Expression,
August 2018



Adoption of the Chicago Principles

December 2018

Because the University is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters, it guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the University, the University fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the University community “to discuss any problem that presents itself.”

Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech

UHAP 7.01.02

Academic freedom, which is essential to the advancement of knowledge, is rooted in and regulated by the norms of the disciplinary communities within which the faculty are credentialed... While academic freedom governs the pursuit of knowledge in the classroom and in our individual fields of study, freedom of speech applies elsewhere on campus and throughout the public sphere, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Focus for UArizona Shared Governance

Concerns about legislative impact on Academic Freedom

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Concerns about looking for “bias” in faculty social media posts



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