

1 San José State University
2 Academic Senate
3 Professional Standards Committee
4 December 9, 2024

AS 1883

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6 Policy Recommendation
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9 This proposal would rescind S99-8 Professional Responsibility Statement
10 and replace it with two policy recommendations: AS 1884 Statement on Faculty Professional
11 Responsibility and AS 1883 Statement on Academic Freedom and Establishing the Academic
12 Freedom Committee.

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47 remain free to inquire, to study and to evaluate, to gain new maturity and understanding;

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50 Today, however, many faculty and others do not know much about the history of academic
51 freedom, its legal status, or its ultimate purpose. When the term is used it is sometimes perceived
52 incorrectly as an individual privilege rather than as a critically important tool for fulfilling the

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54 of each new genera

understanding of academic freedom, and has crafted this tool for

85 effectively execute their responsibilities. SJSU faculty must remain free of the
86 forces of special interests and political interference if they are to fulfill society's
87 expectations and their educational responsibilities.

88 1.1.4. All members of the university community: students, staff, and all faculty
89 employees, shall have the protections of academic freedom
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91 1.2. Academic Freedom as it Relates to Tenure

92 1.2.1. Tenure is one mechanism specifically created to protect academic freedom, and
93 those faculty who hold the protection of tenure have an obligation to protect the
94 academic freedom of all members of the university community.

95 1.2.2. Tenure constitutes an important procedural safeguard of academic freedom and
96 professional responsibility and, as such, is essential for the maintenance of
97 intellectual liberty and high standards in education and in scholarship. It is one
98 means by which university faculty members are protected against personal malice or
99 political coercion, and by which it is ensured that those who, following rigorous
100 evaluation, secure continuing employment, can be dismissed only on professional
101 grounds according to due process.

1.2.3. Historically, the indispensability of academic tenure to academic freedom is a

130 that 2+2=5 would not be protected; neither would teaching intelligent design in an
131 evolutionary biology class.⁴

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133 Professional responsibility is thus the natural complement of the academic freedom
134 essential to the university's mission. Through their responsible professional conduct,
135 faculty members promote and protect academic freedom. Because faculty members
136 belong to a profession with the rights of self-government, they also have the
137 obligation to establish standards of professional conduct and procedures to enforce
138 them. These standards are set in the SJSU Statement of Professional Responsibility.⁵

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140 1.3.2. Academic freedom is a privilege granted to faculty in return for their obligation to
141 serve the public good, which they do through the advancement of scholarship, the
142 search for truth, and the higher education of our communities. We agree with the

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144 liberties without which it cannot rightly render its distinctive and indispensable
145 service to society, but also that it will with equal earnestness seek to maintain such
146 standards of professional character, and of scientific integrity and competency, as

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149 2. The Academic Freedom Committee is established as a Special Agency.

150 2.1. Charge of the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC):

151 2.1.1. AFC shall monitor the state of academic freedom both at San Jose State and in the
152 broader academic environment. In addition, it shall safeguard and promote academic
153 freedom at SJSU, and shall serve as an advisory body on issues arising from the
154 application of academic freedom on our campus.

155 2.1.2. AFC shall educate and advise on the meaning and scope of academic freedom and
156 its application. To do so, AFC shall familiarize itself with policies, laws, court
157 decisions, and current events concerning academic freedom. As part of this function
158 it shall maintain contact (and membership if possible) with the American
159 Association of University Professors (AAUP) and familiarize itself with relevant
160 AAUP publications. Members of AFC should attend AAUP conferences on
161 academic freedom when possible.

162 2.1.3. AFC shall work in concert with the Center for Faculty Development to educate
163 and orient new faculty on academic freedom issues, by attending and presenting at
164 events such as faculty orientations.

165 2.1.4. AFC shall educate all constituencies of the San Jose State Community on our own
166 policies on academic freedom. It shall host at least one academic freedom forum
167 each year, on a topic related to academic freedom and designed to stimulate interest
168 in academic freedom.

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170 3. Organization of the AFC

171 3.1. Membership

⁴ <https://www.aaup.org/programs/academic-freedom/faqs-academic-freedom>

⁵ S99-8 at the time of this policy recommendation

⁶ American Association of University Professors,

3.1.1.