



A campus of The California State University

Office of the Academic Senate • One Washington Square • San Jose, California 95192-0024 • 408-924-2440 • Fax:

Resolved: That this revised policy be distributed to all department chairs by the President with instructions to make faculty aware of its existence and where it can be obtained.

ACTION BY THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT: Approved by President Robert Caret on May 4, 1999.

Amendment A to S9 S9n-36342-1.12 nd-9 6)2 (S92.7i/M406 S9

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I. Statement of Professional Responsibility³

A. Preamble

B. Faculty Responsibilities

The responsibilities of faculty members may be considered from five related, but somewhat conceptually distinct, perspectives: (1) as members of an academic profession; (2) as teachers;⁴ (3) as colleagues; (4) as members of an academic institution; (5) as members of a community.

1. As members of an academic profession, faculty members:

a. serve as intellectual leaders; they

- seek and state the truth as they see it.
- develop and improve their instructional and scholarly competence.
- exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in applying, extending, and transmitting knowledge.
- practice, foster, and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and free expression on and off the campus.
- promote the free and open exchange of ideas in the classroom as related to the subject matter.
- strive to foster a campus environment that i) supports a robust discussion of issues (including political and societal issues), ii) promotes respect for the opinions of others, and iii) encourages sensitivity to the possibility of multiple interpretations of speech and actions.
- do not allow their subsidiary interests to compromise their freedom of inquiry.

b. engage in research and other professional and creative activities; they

- perform their research with honesty and integrity.
- respect the ethical and legal considerations⁵ that underlie their work and output, as consistent with the ethical principles and guidelines of their discipline.
- comply with guidelines governing any grant or other funds related to a research or creative project.
- strive to contribute to the body of knowledge in their discipline and to disseminate such knowledge appropriately.
- critically evaluate their work prior to dissemination.
- use university and other resources with integrity and consider

S66-20 and S90-5 (and any related updates or modifications) available at the Senate Web site.

- acknowledge significant academic or scholarly collaboration with or assistance from their students.
- adhere to published descriptions of course content and grading practices, such as those contained in syllabi and course catalogs.
- maintain awareness of and adhere to University policies governing student rights and responsibilities.

b. encourage the free pursuit of learning; they

- encourage students to make their own judgments and to express them when appropriate.
- allow students to take reasoned exception to or to reserve judgment about the data or views offered in a course of study.
- refuse to tolerate exploitation, harassment, or discrimination by students in an instructional setting.

c. exhibit and uphold the highest scholarly and ethical standards of their disciplines; they

- foster honest academic conduct.
- do not instruct, advise, or supervise students with whom they have personal or professional conflicts of interest.⁷

d. serve as intellectual guides and advisors; they

- are available during reasonable, posted hours to assist students who request their intellectual and academic help.

- utilize instructional technology effectively and efficiently.

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- e. give appropriate notice of their intent to interrupt or terminate their services to the university.
- f. share in the responsibilities for governing the university.
- g. share in periodic review and improvement of curriculum.
- h. cooperate in the pursuit of stated goals of one's program, department, college, or university.
- i. help ensure that the university meets its commitment to maintain an environment that values diversity and that is free from discrimination and harassment.

5. As members of a community, faculty members:

- a. publicly distinguish when they speak or act as private citizens from when they do so as an official representative of the university so as not to lead others to mistake them as a spokesperson

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While acknowledging that the propriety of a personal relationship between a student and an instructor is indeed a sensitive issue for all involved, the faculty holds that the rights of faculty and students to free association must be honored and protected in instances when professional disinterestedness is not expected or required. The faculty also acknowledges that disinterestedness thrives best in an atmosphere free from suspicions of favoritism, nepotism, coercion and harassment.

