

At its meeting of May 8, 1999, the Board of Professional Responsibility.”

Resolved: Throughout S99-9 the name of the “Board of Academic Freedom and

Freedom Committee, so that the AFC's charge will be connected to its structure. We have added a section on professional responsibility that underlines the interconnection between freedom and responsibility and links to the (retitled) Professional Responsibility policy.

The creation of the AFC will nevertheless leave another reform of the Board of Professional Responsibility to be taken up in a second stage. The most effective way to enforce our campus policy on professional responsibility, given the collective bargaining system and the growing importance of legal codes operating within the academy, has yet to be decided. The existing Board is advisory to Faculty Services and has had mixed success over the years with this function. Furthermore, the statement of professional responsibility is itself in need of revision after more than twenty years of legal developments. But Professional Standards would like to see an effective and functioning AFC in place while our work continues on the (now) separate professional responsibility policy.

Approved: 5/1/23
Vote: 10-0-0
Present: Barrera, French, Gómez, Kazemifar, Maldonado, Monday, Pruthi, Riley, Smith, Wang
Absent: None

Financial Impact: There could be some modest travel costs associated with sending members of the Academic Freedom committee to conferences.

Workload Impact: The creation of a new committee would represent more work, although necessary work. This is somewhat obviated by the work that could be saved if the committee's actions prevent misunderstandings or incidents arising from disputes over academic freedom. [13.3 (r)5rom.o c.1 (.)]

1.2. Academic Freedom as it Relates to Tenure

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

peers judge is invalid--for example, teaching that $2+2=5$ would not be protected; neither would teaching intelligent design in an evolutionary biology class.⁴

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

1.3.2. Academic freedom is a privilege granted to faculty in return for their obligation to serve the public good, which they do through the advancement of scholarship, the search for truth, and the higher education of our communities. We agree with the AAUP 1915 Declaration that "not only that the profession will earnestly guard those liberties without which it cannot rightly render its distinctive and indispensable service to society, but also that it will with equal earnestness seek to maintain such standards of professional character, and of scientific integrity and competency, as shall make it a fit instrument for that service."⁶

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

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

- 2.1.1. AFC shall monitor the state of academic freedom both at San Jose State and in the broader academic environment. In addition, it shall safeguard and promote academic freedom at SJSU, and shall serve as an advisory body on issues arising from the application of academic freedom on our campus.
- 2.1.2. AFC shall educate and advise on the meaning and scope of academic freedom and its application. To do so, AFC shall familiarize itself with policies, laws, court decisions, and current events concerning academic freedom. As part of this function it shall maintain contact (and membership if possible) with the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and familiarize itself with relevant AAUP publications. Members of AFC should attend AAUP conferences on academic freedom when possible.
- 2.1.3. AFC shall work in concert with the Center for Faculty Development to educate and orient new faculty on academic freedom issues, by attending and presenting at events such as faculty orientations.

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, *1915 Declaration of Principles on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure*.

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

3. Organization of the AFC

3.1. Membership

- 3.1.1. Four faculty members, three of whom must be (or have previously been) tenured, chosen university-wide for their expertise and/or interest in academic freedom issues. One of the four faculty may be from among our emeriti faculty. One of the four faculty may be a lecturer or a probationary faculty member. These faculty will serve 2 years terms and may be renewed twice (for a total of six years) before rotating off the committee for a minimum of one term.
- 3.1.2. One student.
- 3.1.3. One administrator.
- 3.1.4. One Staff member (Non-MPP)

3.2. Chair. Each year the AFC shall choose its own Chair from among the tenured (or previously tenured) faculty members of the committee.

3.3. Reporting.

- 3.3.1. If the AFC has suggestions for policy changes it shall report them to the Professional Standards Committee of the Academic Senate.
- 3.3.2. The Chair of the AFC shall be permitted to address the Professional Standards Committee and the Academic Senate to report on issues relating to academic freedom.

3.4. Selection.

- 3.4.1. All candidates for membership shall submit statements discussing their expertise and/or interest in academic freedom issues, and (if faculty) a curriculum vitae.
- 3.4.2. Faculty candidates for membership shall be screened by the Executive Committee and approved by the Senate.
- 3.4.3. The Administrative representative shall be designated by the President after consultation with the Executive Committee.
- 3.4.4. The student representative shall be designated by Associated Students after consultation with the Executive Committee.

- 3.5. Meetings. The AFC should meet at least once every month during the academic year.