



Eastern Kentucky University

Policy and Regulation Library

University Policy: 4.1.1POL

Responsible Office(s): Office of the Provost

Effective: June 18, 2019

Next Review Date: Spring 2030

University Policy: 4.1.1POL

Academic Freedom

Statement

Eastern Kentucky University endorses the American Association of University Professors' statement concerning academic freedom, which states, in part,

1. Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment.
3. College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinion of others and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution. ("1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure")

Entities Affected

- Colleges
- Departments
- Faculty

Procedures

An allegation that standards of academic freedom have been breached shall be processed through Policy 4.7.4, Faculty Grievances.

Definitions

- **Teacher:** Per the AAUP, “The word ‘teacher’ as used in this document is understood to include the investigator who is attached to an academic institution without teaching duties.” Further, Eastern Kentucky University recognizes that in the context of Academic Freedom, “teacher” is defined broadly to include any person appointed for instructional purposes at ECU and any person affiliated with the University who is engaged in scholarly or creative activities.

References

AAUP 1940 Statement on Academic Freedom

Policy Adoption Review and Approval

Revised Policy

DATE

February 28, 2025
October 17, 2024
June 18, 2019
April 8, 2019
March 20, 2019
February 4, 2019

ENTITY

Provost
University Counsel
Board of Regents
President
Provost Council
Faculty Senate

ACTION

Reviewed & Readopted
Editorial Revision
Adopted
Approved
Approved
Approved

Policy Issued

DATE

August 1, 1963
July 29, 1963

ENTITY

Board of Regents
EKU Faculty

ACTION

Adopted
Approved