

# ACADEMIC FREEDOM

## From University Constitution

### Article III, Section 2:

ACADEMIC FREEDOM-The policy of academic freedom and responsibilities governing the University of Florida is as set forth in the University's policy statement reprinted in full in University of Florida regulations. The following principles are quoted therefrom: "The University believes that academic freedom and responsibility are essential to the full development of a true university and apply to teaching, research and creativity. In the development of knowledge, research endeavors and creative activities, a university faculty and student body must be free to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and scholarly criticism and to examine ideas in an atmosphere of freedom and confidence. A similar atmosphere is required for university teaching. Consistent with the exercise of academic responsibility, a teacher must have freedom in the classroom in discussing academic subjects, selecting instructional materials and determining grades. The university student must likewise have the opportunity to study a full spectrum of ideas, opinions and beliefs, so that the student may acquire maturity for analysis and judgment. Objective and skillful exposition of such matters is the duty of every instructor."

"The established policy of the University continues to be that the faculty member must fulfill his/her responsibility to society and to his/her profession by manifesting academic competence, scholarly discretion and good citizenship. The university instructor is a citizen, a member of a learned profession and an academic officer of an educational institution. The instructor should be constantly mindful that these roles may be inseparable in the public view, and should therefore at all times exercise appropriate restraint and good judgment."

A faculty member who believes that he/she does not enjoy the academic freedom that it is the policy of the University to maintain and encourage shall be entitled on written request to a hearing before the Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards Committee or utilize other procedures available .

## SENATE ACADEMIC FREEDOM UPDATES

- Special Senate Meeting Wednesday, November 17 at 3 pm
  - Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS) Academic Freedom Resolution
  - UF Faculty Senate Welfare Council Academic Freedom Resolution
- Town Hall on Academic Freedom (early December)
- Senate *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Freedom

# SENATE ACADEMIC FREEDOM UPDATES

## 1) UF Faculty Senate *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Freedom

We have formed a special *ad hoc* committee on Academic Freedom. The charge of this special *ad hoc* committee is to gather information and report back to the Faculty Senate on UF practices that affect the ability of UF faculty to engage in outside activities that are normally accepted as appropriate scholarly activities of university faculty. This includes, but is not limited to, expert witness engagement, writing of op ed pieces, and consulting.

This special Senate Committee is separate from the President's Task Force on Expert Witness engagements. The Senate committee will consider outside activities of faculty in a broader context to reflect the range of concerns over academic freedom that we are hearing from faculty across the campus.

### Committee Members:

**R. Raymond Issa, Chair** (Distinguished Professor and Director, Center for Advanced Construction Information Modeling, Rinker School of Construction Management)

**Danaya Wright** (T. Terrell Sessums and Gerald Sohn Professor in Constitutional Law, College of Law and former Faculty Senate Chair)

**Sarah Lynne** (Associate Professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, IFAS)

**Michael Bernhard** (Raymond and Miriam Ehrlich Eminent Scholar Chair, Department of Political Science, CLAS)

**Robert Cousins** (Eminent Scholar and Boston Family Professor of Nutrition, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, IFAS)

**Angela Kohnen** (Associate Professor, School of Teaching and Learning, College of Education)