

ARTICLE 3: ACADEMIC FREEDOM

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3 Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the
4 interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends
5 upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom is essential to these
6 purposes and applies to both teaching and research. The parties are committed to intellectual
7 inquiry, academic rigor, thoughtful exploration, and the civil exchange of ideas. The State
8 College of Florida and its faculty strive to maintain an atmosphere in which students and faculty
9 have ample opportunity to explore the full spectrum of ideas, opinions, and beliefs.

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11 A. In order to ensure that this situation is perpetuated, academic freedom is defined in terms of
12 the following rights:

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14 1. To seek information
15 2. To interpret information
16 3. To communicate findings without interference

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18 B. By accepting academic freedom, each individual faculty member also accepts the following
19 responsibilities for preserving that freedom:

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21 1. To maintain scholarly competence
22 2. To confine himself to his area of competence
23 3. To be objective
24 4. To speak his conclusions
25 5. To speak officially for the College only when authorized
26 6. To defend the academic freedom of his colleagues

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28 C. In recognition of the principle of academic freedom at Seminole State College the parties
29 affirm that faculty members must be free of any arbitrary limitations on the study, investigation,
30 presentation, interpretation, or communication of facts and ideas in any branch of learning
31 consistent with the standards and practices of academic inquiry. Faculty are free to

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33 1. Discuss their subject in the classroom and to devise and select teaching strategies and
34 educational materials to present his subject. However, he shall not introduce a
35 controversial matter that has no relation to his subject.
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37 2. Conduct research and to publish the results, subject to adequate performance of his other
38 academic duties.

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40 D. Faculty are members of a learned profession, and respected employees of an educational
41 institution. When they speak or write as private citizens, they should be free from institutional
42 censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations.
43 As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their

44 profession and their institution by their utterances. They should at all times be objective and
45 accurate, and should exercise appropriate restraint and responsibility.

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47 E. The administration of the College guarantees academic freedom by making sure that all
48 faculty members are protected from the threats of economic deprivation and discriminatory
49 dismissal. The faculty subscribe to this statement of academic freedom with the firm belief that
50 academic freedom neither implies the granting of license nor releases anyone of his contractual
51 and legal duties. This statement does not diminish anyone's rights as provided under the
52 Constitution of the United States of America.