AP 4030 Academic Freedom

Reference:
Education Code section 76120; Title 5 section 51023; Accreditation Standard II.A.7

Any college committee, District official, faculty member, student, or community member may ask the Senate to convene the Academic Freedom Committee to provide an interpretation, clarification, or opinion on an issue of Academic Freedom.

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Once the Senate receives a request, it will convene an ad hoc committee on Academic Freedom. If several requests address the same or similar issues, the Senate reserves the right to have the committee combine all similar requests and issues into one unified interpretation or opinion.

B. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. The committee shall consist of:
   a. At least three faculty appointed by the Senate, one of whom will be designated as Chair;
   b. A student appointed by the Associated Student Government;
   c. An Educational Administrator appointed by the Chancellor; and
   d. The Senate may also choose to appoint individuals with specialize training or expertise to serve as ex officio (non-voting advisors).
   e. As far as is possible, the Senate will strive to ensure that the faculty representatives include full time and adjunct faculty.
2. When there is a question involving a particular academic discipline, at least one faculty member will be from the same or a closely related discipline, and at least one faculty member will be from a different discipline.
3. No Committee member shall have an immediate interest in the issue(s) being discussed.

C. COMMITTEE OPERATION

1. As much as possible, the committee shall operate in an open, collegial manner. However, the committee will have the right to establish guidelines to govern committee meetings and operations.
2. The committee will work with Human Resources, and other appropriate departments, to ensure that privacy, FERPA, and other related rights are respected for all parties.

D. COMMITTEE REPORT

1. The committee will provide an initial report with its interpretations, clarifications, opinions, findings, and/or recommendations to the full Senate, as well as the parties
requesting the report, subject to any restrictions required by FERPA and other privacy rules and regulations.

2. The report is conditional until it is accepted by the full Senate. The Senate may also ask the committee to review portions of the report to provide for additional clarification.

3. In addition, the Committee will provide a summary of its operating guidelines, with suggestions for future committees.

E. APPLICABILITY OF THE REPORT

Interpretations and opinions of this Committee are non-binding on the parties involved. However, it is to be understood by all parties that the final report is the studied interpretation, opinion, recommendations and findings of the Academic Senate. As such it should be given due weight and consideration by the parties requesting the report.

F. WHO MAY REQUEST AN ACADEMIC FREEDOM REPORT

Any individual making a request must specify whether the request is being made as an individual, or as an authorized representative of a committee or other group.

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