

**Academic Freedom  
ACA-32**

**ACTION: Amend.**

<p><b>Current policy</b> <i>Unchanged text = black; minor changes and updates = blue; proposed substantive changes = red</i></p>	<p><b>Policy as amended</b></p>	<p><b>Comments</b></p>
<p><b>About This Policy</b> Effective dates: 05-17-1966 Last updated: 11-04-2005 Responsible University Office: University Faculty Council Responsible University Administrator: University Faculty Council, Board of Trustees Policy Contact: ufcoff@indiana.edu</p> <p>/</p> <p>/</p> <p>/</p> <p><b>Policy Statement</b> Academic freedom, accompanied by responsibility, attaches to all aspects of a teacher’s and librarian’s professional conduct. The teacher and librarian shall have full freedom of investigation, subject to adequate fulfillment of other academic duties. No limitation shall be placed upon the teacher’s and librarian’s freedom of exposition of the subject in the classroom, or library, or on the expression of it outside. The teacher should not subject students to discussion in the classroom of topics irrelevant to the content of the course. No censorship shall be imposed on the librarian’s freedom to select and make available any materials supporting the teaching,</p>	<p><b>About This Policy</b> Effective dates: 05-17-1966 Last updated: 04-23-2019 Responsible University Office: University Faculty Council Responsible University Administrator: Provost/Chancellors of each campus Policy Contact: Director of Faculty Council Office, ufcoff@indiana.edu</p> <p><b>Scope</b> All academic appointees with teaching, research, or librarianship responsibilities, including visiting, adjunct, acting and part-time faculty.</p> <p><b>Policy Statement</b> A. Academic freedom, accompanied by responsibility, attaches to all aspects of a teacher’s professional conduct. The teacher shall have full freedom of instruction, subject to adequate fulfillment of other academic duties. No limitation shall be placed upon the teacher’s freedom of exposition of the subject in the classroom or on the expression of it outside. The teacher should not subject students to discussion in the classroom of topics irrelevant to the content of the course.</p> <p>B. Academic freedom, accompanied by responsibility, attaches to all aspects of a librarian’s professional conduct. No censorship shall be</p>	<p><i>Overview: These amendments put ACA-32 into the policy template and add that academic freedom covers research and criticism of university policies, but is not an automatic defense to a charge of misconduct.</i></p> <p><i>Template asks for a Scope section</i> <i>Q: Should this apply to students, post-docs, academic specialists who teach? See definition section</i></p> <p><i>First paragraph rewritten as two sections, one for teachers and one for librarians</i></p> <p><i>Minor word changes</i></p>

research, and general learning functions of the academic community.

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In public utterances the teacher and librarian shall be free of institutional control, but when either the teacher or librarian writes or speaks as a citizen, an endeavor should be made to avoid appearing as a spokesman for the University. The teacher or librarian should recognize that a professional position in the community involves the obligation to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, and to show respect for the right of others to express their views.

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imposed on the librarian’s freedom to select and make available any materials supporting the teaching, research, and general learning functions of the academic community

C. Academic freedom, accompanied by responsibility, attaches to all aspects of a researcher’s professional conduct The researcher shall have full freedom of investigation, subject to adequate fulfillment of other academic duties. No limitation shall be placed upon the subject matter of the research, its publication and dissemination, or the expression of it outside the university.

D. Academic freedom includes the freedom to express views on matters having to do with the university and its policies, and on issues of public interest generally. When faculty write or speak as citizens, they should avoid appearing to be speaking for the university. They should recognize that a professional position in the community involves the obligation to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, and to show respect for the right of others to express their views.

E. This policy does not override other university policies concerning academic ethics and misconduct.

**Reason for Policy**

Academic freedom is central to the mission of the university. Knowledge cannot be advanced unless faculty and librarians have freedom to study and communicate ideas and facts, including those that are inconvenient to political groups or authorities, without fear of recrimination.

*A new section C addresses research, tracking the language used in the first two paragraphs.*

*A new section D addresses freedom to comment on the university, and merges it with the existing language about public utterances. Minor language changes.*

*Add new paragraph E to clarify that academic freedom is not a defense to a charge of misconduct.*

*New section requested in standard template*

Cases involving alleged impairment of academic freedom shall be referred to the appropriate Board of Review and **dealt with** according to established procedure

**Procedures**

Cases involving alleged impairment of academic freedom shall be referred to the appropriate **campus** Board of Review and **addressed according to its established procedure.**

**Definition**

“Academic appointees” includes all categories of appointment in ACA-14, Classification of Academic Appointments, plus post-doctoral fellows, and does not include students whose appointments fall under ACA-16, Student Academic Appointments.

**History**

Enacted by University Faculty Council, May 17, 1966.  
Amended by University Faculty Council, May 30, 1976; April 23, 2019.  
Endorsed by Board of Trustees, Nov.4, 2005.

*Add “Procedures” title per template, make minor language change.*

*See “Scope” section*

*Add History section per template.*

## FULL TEXT OF POLICY AS AMENDED

### **About This Policy**

Effective dates: 05-17-1966

Last updated: 04-23-2019

Responsible University Office: University Faculty Council

Responsible University Administrator: Provost/ Chancellors of each campus

Policy Contact: Director of Faculty Council Office, [ufcoff@indiana.edu](mailto:ufcoff@indiana.edu)

### **Scope**

All academic appointees with teaching, research, or librarianship responsibilities, including visiting, adjunct, acting and part-time faculty.

### **Policy Statement**

A. Academic freedom, accompanied by responsibility, attaches to all aspects of a teacher's professional conduct. The teacher shall have full freedom of instruction, subject to adequate fulfillment of other academic duties. No limitation shall be placed upon the teacher's freedom of exposition of the subject in the classroom or on the expression of it outside. The teacher should not subject students to discussion in the classroom of topics irrelevant to the content of the course.

B. Academic freedom, accompanied by responsibility, attaches to all aspects of a librarian's professional conduct. No censorship shall be imposed on the librarian's freedom to select and make available any materials supporting the teaching, research, and general learning functions of the academic community

C. Academic freedom, accompanied by responsibility, attaches to all aspects of a researcher's professional conduct. The researcher shall have full freedom of investigation, subject to adequate fulfillment of other academic duties. No limitation shall be placed upon the subject matter of the research, its publication and dissemination, or the expression of it outside the university.

D. Academic freedom includes the freedom to express views on matters having to do with the university and its policies, and on issues of public interest generally. When faculty write or speak as citizens, they should avoid appearing to be speaking for the university. They should recognize that a professional position in the community involves the obligation to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, and to show respect for the right of others to express their views.

E. This policy does not override other university policies concerning academic ethics and misconduct.

### **Reason for Policy**

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### **Procedures**

Cases involving alleged impairment of academic freedom shall be referred to the appropriate campus Board of Review and addressed according to its established procedure.

**History**

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