Statement on Academic Freedom and Shared Governance

Executive Committee, University Faculty Council

Indiana University

Higher education in the United States is admired throughout the world for its pursuit of education and research as mutually reinforcing missions and for its unflagging commitment to academic freedom and shared governance as bedrock principles of universities' operations. Indiana University has a proud tradition of academic freedom and shared governance at both the campus and university levels, exemplified by the university's nurturing of excellent, path-breaking research and the free expression of a wide diversity of academic opinion—despite the popularity or unpopularity of the subjects explored or the views expressed. On rare occasions, these commitments become a cause célèbre and the university's commitments are tested against external challenges to its integrity and autonomy. On a day-to-day basis, these commitments are manifested by following the policies and practices concerning academic freedom and shared governance that have been adopted and regularly confirmed by the University Faculty, Board of Trustees, and University Administration. The University Faculty Council reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom and shared governance, and it calls upon the administrative leadership of the university to continue to follow the letter and spirit of IU's well-established policies and practices.