

1 **Faculty Senate Bill 329**

2 **Introduced by**
3 **Faculty Academic Standards, Rights and**
4 **Responsibilities Committee**

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7 **A BILL TO REVISE**
8 **UW REGULATION 5-1 “Academic Personnel”**
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11 **WHEREAS**, the Faculty Academic Standards, Rights and Responsibilities Committee
12 reviewed and developed proposed changes to UW Regulation 5-1 for updates and
13 consistency to strengthen UW’s statement about Academic Freedom; therefore,
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15 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Faculty Senate of the University of Wyoming that UW
16 Regulation 5-1 is hereby amended as presented in the attached addendum.

1 **A. ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

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3 Education flourishes only when academic personnel have both freedom and responsibilities
4 in the conduct of their official duties. These duties include: teaching activities, including
5 extension and outreach; research and other scholarly work; service; and shared governance.
6 Adopting a system of freedoms and responsibilities helps ensure that the university can
7 serve as a forum in which ideas may be examined openly and rigorously, without implying
8 institutional endorsement. Although many of these freedoms are protected by the First
9 Amendment of the Constitution, they also exist as a fundamental requirement of the
10 mission of the university.

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12 The university adheres to the principles of the 1940 “Statement of Principles on Academic
13 Freedom and Tenure,” by the American Association of University Professors. The
14 following expresses the meaning of that statement, updated for current values.

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16 Academic freedom in teaching protects the rights of teachers to teach according to their
17 expertise. Teachers are entitled to freedom in discussing their subject. Teachers have a
18 responsibility to ensure that their teaching is effective and consistent with the standards of
19 the discipline, understanding that disciplines may have diverse points of view on any given
20 subject. Teaching may involve controversial material; however, teachers should avoid
21 introducing into their teaching matter that is not germane to the subject, whether
22 controversial or not. With academic freedom in the classroom, teachers also have the
23 responsibility to respect others’ freedom to express disagreement and alternate opinions.

24
25 Academic freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic
26 personnel are entitled to full freedom in research, publication of the results, and other
27 scholarly activities that are part of their employment. Academic personnel have the
28 responsibility to pursue research and scholarship with integrity and fidelity to their
29 profession and the institution.

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31 Freedom in university governance entails the rights of academic personnel to express their
32 judgments about administrative matters that bear on the university’s mission. It includes
33 the right to express agreement or disagreement with institutional policies and the positions
34 of others, including university officials. Academic personnel have the responsibility to
35 participate in university governance and service for the maintenance, health and
36 improvement of the institution.

37
38 Freedoms of academic personnel also include the ability to invite guest speakers and
39 artists, who are afforded the same academic freedoms and responsibilities of resident
40 academic personnel. Invitation of guest speakers and artists does not imply university
41 approval or endorsement of the expressed views.

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43 When academic personnel speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional
44 censorship or discipline. They should remember that the public may judge their profession
45 and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, exercise
46 appropriate restraint, show respect for others’ right to disagree, and make it clear that they
47 are not speaking for the institution.