



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING REGULATIONS

Subject: Academic Freedom [& Freedom of Expression](#)

Number: UW Regulation 2-15

I. PURPOSE

[To describe the University's policy on academic freedom.](#)

II. **POLICY**_[TBB1]

Education flourishes only when academic personnel have both freedom and responsibilities in the conduct of their official duties. [Academic freedom applies to these duties which](#) ~~These duties~~ include: teaching activities, ~~including~~ extension and outreach; research and other scholarly work; ~~including and~~ [creative activities](#); [academic service](#); [professional service](#); and shared governance. Adopting a system of freedoms and responsibilities helps ensure that the university ~~can will~~ serve as a forum in which ideas may be examined openly and rigorously, without implying institutional endorsement. Although many of these freedoms are protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they also exist as a fundamental requirement of the mission of the university.

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

Academic freedom in teaching protects the rights of ~~teachers-instructors~~ to teach according to their expertise. Teachers are entitled to freedom in discussing their subject. Teachers have a responsibility to ensure that their teaching is effective and consistent with the standards of the discipline, understanding that disciplines may have diverse points of view on any given subject. Teaching may involve controversial material; however, with academic freedom in the classroom, teachers also have the responsibility to respect others’ freedom to express disagreement and alternate opinions.

Academic freedom in research [and scholarship](#) is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic personnel are entitled to full freedom in research, publication of the results, and other scholarly activities that are part of their employment. Academic personnel have the responsibility to pursue research and scholarship with integrity and fidelity to their profession and the institution.

46 Academic freedom does not negate the rights of students and the public to disagree
47 with academic personnel's work, although students are expected to learn material with
48 which they may disagree. Nor does academic freedom shield academic personnel's
49 work from the consequences of expert review by colleagues in their ~~field of~~
50 study discipline, which is essential to the rigorous evaluation of teaching, research,
51 professional service, extension, and creative activity.

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53 Freedom ~~of expression in university governance~~ entails the rights of academic
54 personnel to express their judgments about administrative matters that bear on the
55 university's mission. It includes the right of UW employees to express agreement or
56 disagreement with institutional policies and the positions of others, including
57 university officials and Trustees, without fear of institutional sanction. Academic
58 personnel have the responsibility to participate in university governance and service
59 for the maintenance, health and improvement of the institution.

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61 Freedoms of academic personnel also include the ability to invite guest speakers and
62 artists, who are afforded the same academic freedoms and responsibilities ~~of as~~
63 resident academic personnel. Invitation of guest speakers and artists does not imply
64 university approval or endorsement of the expressed views.

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

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74 **Effective Date:** July 1, ~~2018~~2019

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76 **Responsible Division/Unit:** Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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78 **Source:** None

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80 **Links:** [http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/current-uw-regulations-and-presidential-](http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/current-uw-regulations-and-presidential-directives/index.html)
81 [directives/index.html](http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/current-uw-regulations-and-presidential-directives/index.html)
82 <https://www.aaup.org/file/1940%20Statement.pdf>

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84 **Associated Regulations, Policies, and Forms:** None

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86 **History:**