

Policy Title: Academic Freedom	
Responsible University Office:	
University Office:	President's Office
Office Website URL:	http://president.uoregon.edu/
Policy Owner:	Michael Gottfredson
Email:	pres@uoregon.edu
Phone:	(541)346-3036
DATE: May 28, 2014	
Policy Concept Form: The policy concept form was approved by the Senior Vice President and Provost on the following date: n/a	
NOTE: Policy development may not proceed until the policy concept has been approved.	
Preamble:	
Reason for Policy:	
Definitions:	
Policy Statement: The University of Oregon encourages and supports open, vigorous, and challenging debate across the full spectrum of human issues as they present themselves to the university community. The University of Oregon protects free speech through Policy No. 01.00.16. This policy on Academic Freedom builds on these existing commitments by recognizing the special contexts of scholarship, teaching, governance, and public service.	
SECTION 1 a. SCHOLARSHIP. The University's research mission requires that members of the UO community have autonomous freedom to conduct research and produce creative work, and to publish and disseminate	

that work, limited only by the standards and methods of accountability established by their profession and their individual disciplines.

b. **TEACHING.** The University's responsibility to help students to think critically and independently requires that members of the university community have the right to investigate and discuss matters, including those that are controversial, inside and outside of class, without fear of institutional restraint. Matters brought up in class should be related to the subject of courses or otherwise be educationally relevant, as determined primarily by the faculty member in charge of the class.

c. **POLICY AND SHARED GOVERNANCE.** Members of the university community have freedom to address, question, or criticize any matter of institutional policy or practice, whether acting as individuals or as members of an agency of institutional governance.

d. **PUBLIC SERVICE.** Public service requires that members of the university community have freedom to participate in public debate, both within and beyond their areas of expertise, and to address both the university community and the larger society with regard to any matter of social, political, economic, cultural, or other interest. In their exercise of this freedom, university community members have the right to identify their association or title, but should not claim to be acting or speaking on behalf of the University unless authorized to do so.

SECTION 2

These freedoms derive immediately from the university's basic commitment to advancing knowledge and understanding. The academic freedoms enumerated in this policy shall be exercised without fear of institutional reprisal. Only serious abuses of this policy – ones that rise to the level of professional misbehavior or professional incompetence – should lead to adverse consequences. Any such determinations shall be made in accordance with established, formal procedures involving judgment by relevant peers.

Exclusions and Special Situations:

Procedures:

Forms/Instructions/Regulations:

Who is Governed by this Policy:

(Please mark all that apply by double clicking on box)

- ☐ Faculty
- ☐ Officers of Administration
- ☐ Students
- ☐ Staff
- ☐ Other: _____

Who Should Know this Policy:

Cross Reference to Related Policies:

Related Documents:

Frequently Asked Questions:

Revision/Development History:

Revision 1:

In January 2010, the Provost charged a work group, led by Russ Tomlin, to review and revise the current Campus Speakers policy. The work group included representatives from the faculty (Margie Paris-Law, Tim Gleason-SOJC), administration (Brian Smith-VPFA, Kathie Stanley-VPFA, and Beverlee Stilwell-Provost Office) and General Counsel (Randy Geller). The workgroup was also supported administratively by Pam Palanuk and Marilyn Skalberg. The workgroup developed a draft policy that was discussed with the Faculty Advisory Council, the Deans, and Leadership Council. The draft policy was posted for comment on both the Provost's and Senate websites.

The final version incorporating revisions based on the ensuing feedback was reviewed and adopted by the Senate with minor revisions at its last meeting of May 26, 2010. The policy was approved by the Executive Leadership Team on June 7, 2010.

12/28/2010 - Approved by President Richard Lariviere.

04/17/2013 - Senate passed motion US12/13-34: [Academic Freedom & Freedom of Speech](#)

12/04/2013 - the University Senate passed a motion on the floor to create an [Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate Academic Freedom/Freedom of Speech Policy](#)

11/13/2013 - On the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee, the University Senate repealed motion US12/13-34 with the passage of US13/14-07.

4/9/2014 – Policy approved by Senate.

Organizational Category:

(Please mark **only** one by double clicking on box)

- ☒ Administration and Governance
- ☐ Academic and Curricular
- ☐ Human Resources
- ☐ Facilities
- ☐ Students

- ☐ Finance and Business Affairs
- ☐ University Relations
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Information Technology
- ☐ General

POLICY CONSULTATION AND REVIEW

Consultation and review by the following individuals or groups:

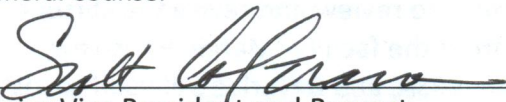
Date:

Vice President or Sr. Vice Provost of:

Date:

General Counsel

Date: 5.28.14


Senior Vice President and Provost

Date:

University of Oregon Senate President

Date:

Click here to add Name or Group

APPROVED BY:

President or Designee


Signature

5-28-14
Date

POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE: _____

ASSIGNED POLICY NUMBER: 01.00.19