

SECTION 700.18  
ACADEMIC FREEDOM

1. Lake Region State College shall foster a free and open academic community for faculty members, students, and all other employees who engage in scholarly work.
2. Academic freedom is the freedom, without institutional, political, or other outside pressure or restraint, to explore any avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression, and to speak or write on matters of public concern, as well as on matters related to professional duties and the functioning of the NDUS and the institution. Faculty are entitled the freedom in designing and teaching their assigned courses. Faculty members shall be free to involve interested students or other professionals in their scholarship or research and pursue funding from internal or external sources to support it. Essential to this principle is the toleration of the conflict of ideas and the opportunity for the expression of diverse points of view. Faculty members and other NDUS employees who engage in scholarly work shall be subject to the full protections of speech and expression accorded to students under SBHE Policy 503.1 and 503.3.
3. Academic Responsibility implies the faithful performance of professional duties and obligations, the recognition of the demands of the scholarly enterprise, and the candor to make clear that when one is speaking on matters of public interest, one is not speaking for the NDUS or any of its institutions. In pursuing scholarly work, faculty and NDUS employees acknowledge the importance of intellectual integrity, accuracy in research and publication, and upholding the principles governing the free and open exchange of ideas, even where those ideas conflict.
4. Faculty at institutions under the control of the SBHE shall generally adhere to the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments adopted by the American Association of University Professors, which provides that *"Teachers are entitled freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject."* As a result, no faculty member may face adverse employment action for classroom speech unless the speech is not reasonably germane to the subject matter of the class as broadly construed and comprises a substantial portion of classroom instruction. As a general rule, faculty shall not face discipline or adverse employment action based on classroom speech unless such speech violates other institutional policies or procedures. Institutions may provide additional protections for classroom speech and the speech of faculty in instruction-related activities, such as office hours, mentoring, advising, or other situations.

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**History**

Adopted 08/16/19

Administrative Council Approved 06/30/21