



BOARD POLICY

No. 411

MENDOCINO - LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The Board of Trustees believes that Mendocino College exists for the common good and not to further the interests of either the individual instructor or the institution as a whole.

The common good, therefore, depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition.

It further believes that academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the instructor in the teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. It carries with it duties correlative with rights.

- a) The instructor is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his/her other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
- b) The instructor is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his/her subject, but he/she should be careful not to introduce into his/her teaching controversial matter which has no relation to his/her subject. This right also carries with it the responsibility of the instructor to present to the best of his/her ability the pros and cons of such controversial ideas as he/she may discuss under the protection of academic freedom.
- c) The college instructor is a citizen, a member of a profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he/she speaks or writes as a citizen, he/she should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his/her special position in the community imposes special obligations. As an individual of learning and an educational officer, he/she should remember that the public may judge his/her profession and institution by his/her utterances. Hence, he/she should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should respect other's opinions, and should make every effort to indicate that he/she is not an institutional spokesperson.

Date Adopted: December 19, 1978

Revised: June 6, 1984