



BOARD POLICY

No. 509

MENDOCINO - LAKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

FREEDOM OF SPEECH, ASSEMBLY AND EXPRESSION

The Board of Trustees of the Mendocino Community College District holds the following assumptions basic to district policy:

That free discussion is a right extended to all citizens.

That a free society functions efficiently only if its citizens have the right to discuss, to debate, and to disagree constructively.

That an educated citizenry, fully aware of all the evidence, is best able to preserve the valuable heritage of American democratic institutions and the right of free expression.

As an educational institution, Mendocino College has an obligation to its community to promote healthy discussions within the conventions of time, place, and manner as defined by laws and established precedents.

That advocating the overthrow of the government by force is prohibited by Federal Statute.

In the light of these assumptions, the Board of Trustees of the Mendocino Community College District declares these official statements of policy:

Within the framework of the orderly processes of our democratic constitutional society Mendocino College constituents will have freedom to consider all issues which will contribute to the development of students.

These freedoms are accompanied by responsibilities, both legal and academic. All in the college community have the responsibility of assuring that an academic and tolerant atmosphere prevails on campus, that the expression of any shade of opinion is respected, that speakers are not interrupted or harassed.

All in the college community must remember that the disruption of the normal functions of any class, meeting, office, or facility, the threat of intimidation or physical coercion, and the use of libelous or purely obscene language, acts, or displays are not allowed by law and, therefore, are not protected by this policy of freedom of speech.

Students who neglect to observe these principles shall be subject to suspension or expulsion. All members of the college community who disregard these guidelines are subject to appropriate professional action. Local government authorities will enforce the applicable laws.

Pursuant to this adopted policy, presentation in open forum of speakers with varying points of view on current issues may be undertaken by the Board and administration of the Mendocino Community College District in fulfilling its obligation as an educational institution in its community.

Education Code 76120

Adopted: December 19, 1978 , Revised: February 5, 2003