
Policy Title:	Academic Freedom	Policy Version:	V2
Policy No:	5300	Approval Date:	July 17, 2017
Original Submission Date:	2004, revised 2012	Effective Date:	July 17, 2017
Approval Body:	Academic Council	Revision Date:	July 2020

Policy Statement

Ascenda School of Management (ASM) supports freedom of inquiry and institutional autonomy in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. Freedom of inquiry comes with the responsibility to ensure that scholarship and teaching are conducted ethically and in accordance with the laws of society and the accepted principles and methods of research inquiry and teaching.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to uphold the principles of academic freedom in the conduct of research, teaching, and learning so that ASM faculty and students are able to pursue inquiry, make independent judgments and to express views or publish without fear of censorship, retribution, or pressures to unduly influence their work. The policy outlines the process for addressing concerns about academic freedom.

Scope

Academic freedom applies to all faculty and students who are conducting scholarly research, teaching, or who are engaged in learning. The right to academic freedom is balanced by the professional standards of the research discipline and by the obligations of the ASM to organize and manage institutional resources in achievement of the mission and mandate of the institution. If a faculty member or student has a concern that the policy on academic freedom has not been upheld, that concern should be discussed with the Dean (hereafter meaning the Dean or academic program head). The Dean will respond according to the Procedures outlined in this policy

Within the broad framework of academic freedom affirmed above, and without limiting the generality of the concept, academic freedom includes:

- **Freedom to Teach.** A faculty member is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing curriculum. A faculty member has the right to introduce any topic or viewpoint related to the curriculum or to the education of students in the subject. The faculty member has the individual right and responsibility to determine course content and textbooks subject to the written departmental policy. The faculty member has the right and the responsibility to present controversial subject matter in such a way as to encourage free discussion, inquiry, and expression.
- **Freedom to Learn.** A faculty member has the right to freedom in the pursuit of research interests and in the publication of the results, subject only to the satisfactory performance of other academic duties.
- **Freedom to Act as a Citizen.** All employees of Ascenda School of Management are entitled to speak or write as citizens without institutional censorship or discipline. However, employees should make every reasonable effort to ensure that when they are expressing personal views, they are not seen as spokespersons or representatives of Ascenda School of Management.
- **Freedom to read.** Ascenda School of Management employees responsible for the development of written, visual, and machine readable resources for the academic community have the right to select materials on the basis of their value as information and entertainment sources, being careful to present a diversity of opinion. No learning materials shall be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. In no case shall material be excluded because of the race, nationality, or the social, political, or religious views of the author.

Notwithstanding the above, academic freedom does not entitle a faculty member to promote discrimination, hatred or contempt for any social, political, national, religious or ethnic group; to display incompetence in teaching or scholarship; or to violate the human rights of students or any person who in any way is associated with Acsenda School of Management.

Definition

These definitions apply to terms as they are used in this policy.

Word/Term	Definition
Academic Freedom	<p>“Academic freedom is the freedom to teach and conduct research in an academic environment. Academic freedom is fundamental to the mandate of universities to pursue truth, educate students and disseminate knowledge and understanding. In teaching, academic freedom is fundamental to the protection of the rights of the teacher to teach and of the student to learn. In research and scholarship, it is critical to advancing knowledge. Academic freedom includes the right to freely communicate knowledge and the results of research and scholarship. Unlike the broader concept of freedom of speech, academic freedom must be based on institutional integrity, rigorous standards for enquiry and institutional autonomy, which allows universities to set their research and educational priorities.”</p> <p>http://www.univcan.ca/media-room/media-releases/statement-on-academic-freedom/</p>

Related legislation

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Human Rights Code, B.C.

Related policies

Policy Number	Policy Title
5503	Research Ethics Policy
2029	Anti Discrimination and Harassment Policy
ASM	Anti-Bulling, Discrimination and Harassment Policy

Responsibility

Academic Council, the President, and the Dean have responsibility for ensuring that the principles of academic freedom, and the processes for addressing concerns about academic freedom, are upheld.

The Dean is responsible for addressing a breach of the policy and complaints about academic freedom at the first level.

The Academic Council is responsible for decisions to deny or uphold appeals brought forward to the Academic Council.

Academic Council is responsible for approving the policy on academic freedom and for constituting the Academic Standards Committee

Faculty members have a responsibility for ensuring the principles of academic freedom are upheld for their students and that they adhere to accepted principles, ethics, and standards for teaching and research in their profession and disciplines.

The Academic Council, senior administrators, and faculty ensure that human rights are respected and that the right to academic freedom is reasonable and balanced with the responsibilities outlined in the policy.

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A faculty member or student writes to the Dean outlining a concern or complaint about infringement upon academic freedom including a recommended remedy.

The Dean or academic program head will respond in writing, normally within 14 working days, either rejecting the claim and outlining the reasons for the denying or upholding the claim and prescribing a reasonable remedy.

A faculty member or student who is unsatisfied with the decision of the Dean, may appeal to the President in writing within 30 days, outlining the reasons for appeal. The President will respond in writing, normally within 14 working days, with a decision and rationale for denying or upholding the appeal.

The Chair of Academic Council will convene a committee of Academic Council members including two (2) faculty members, and one (1) external member to decide on the merits of the appeal. The Chair will respond in writing, normally within 14 working days, with a decision and rationale for denying or upholding the appeal.

The decision of Academic Council is final.

APPENDICES

Policy Title:	[Type text]		
Policy No:	[Type text]	Policy Version:	[Type text]
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