



Board Policy: Academic Freedom of Inquiry and Expression	Policy Number: BP04: 03.010
Article: 4.) Faculty Section: 3.) Academic Freedom Policy	Adopted by the BOT: 01/16/02 Reviewed:
Applicable WAC/RCW: <u>WAC 132Z-112-020</u>	Page 1 of 3

BP4:03.010 Academic Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

As a public institution of higher education in the state of Washington, Cascadia College recognizes and supports the following principles regarding freedom of expression:

- a. Individual freedom of expression is a fundamental tenet of any free and democratic society.
- b. Freedom of expression shall be interpreted to include all forms of written and oral expression, non-verbal communication, and all forms of dramatic and artistic expression.

The College is dedicated to upholding the individual freedom of expression as it is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and that no act shall be undertaken by the College to abridge protected expression.

As an institution dedicated to freedom of thought and expression, the College shall support expression of divergent viewpoints in order to foster broadmindedness and a willingness to learn from others.

In keeping with these principles, Cascadia College upholds academic freedom, which is fundamental to the advancement of the truth. As an institution of higher education, Cascadia maintains that learning is for the common good and the free search for truth and its free expression. Faculty need the freedom to

pursue scholarly and artistic inquiry without undue restriction, and to voice and publish conclusions that the faculty consider relevant to the learning environment and the vision, mission and values of the College. Academic freedom is fundamental to and protects the rights of the instructor and student in the learning environment.

The faculty's right to select materials for classes, and the right to freedom of discussion and expression in class, are fundamental to the search for truth. To the extent that these freedoms do not intentionally incite a student, or group of students, or introduce into the classroom controversial matter, which would be deemed by a reasonable person to have no relation to their subject, they fall within this policy.

In keeping with the vision, mission and values of the college, which uphold a learner-centered learning environment, academic freedom should not be interpreted to refute and/or disregard these principles.

Faculty are citizens, members of a learned profession and officers of an educational institution. When writing or speaking as citizens, due to their special position as scholars and teachers, the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, every effort should be made to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution if the audience might mistake their remarks or actions as representing the College.

In keeping with these principles and the College's right to place reasonable restraints on the time, place and manner of expression, the College shall observe the following general guidelines and appropriate general procedures to ensure the responsible exercise of freedom of expression:

(1) Freedom of Expression

It is the right of any member of the College community to express any point of view and to be free from harassment in such expression; it is the responsibility of those expressing opinions to respect the rights and property of others, to refrain from disrupting the normal operations of the College and to maintain lawful conduct.

The right of free speech and expression does not include activity that may endanger the safety of any member of the College community or visitors, or damage any of the facilities, nor does it include interruption of College classes.

(2) Campus Speakers

Faculty, at their discretion may invite speakers to their classes. In these cases faculty are free to make all necessary arrangements of time and manner within the College's administrative procedures.

Faculty, administrators, staff and/or student organizations officially recognized by the College may also invite speakers to the entire campus to address the College community provided that reasonable space is available, and there is no interference with the regularly scheduled program of the College.

Although properly allowed by the College, the appearance of such campus-wide speakers implies neither approval nor disapproval of them or their viewpoints. In the case of speakers who are candidates for political office, equal opportunities shall be available to opposing candidates if desired by them.

Political candidates seeking to use facilities to discuss campaign issues with non-students shall pay normal facility rental fees.

Speakers are subject to the normal considerations for law and order and to the specific limitations imposed by the state constitution, which prohibits state support for religious worship, exercise or instruction.

In order to insure an atmosphere of open exchange and to insure that the educational objectives of the College are not obscured, the President, in the case of campus-wide meetings attended by strong emotional feeling, may prescribe conditions for the conduct of the meeting. The President may designate representatives to recommend conditions such as time, manner, and place for the conduct of particular campus-wide meetings.