



Blue Mountain Community College *Administrative Procedure*

Procedure Title: Academic Freedom
Procedure Number: 05-2003-0004
Board Policy Reference: IV.B.

Accountable Administrator: Vice President, Instruction
Position responsible for updating: Vice President, Instruction
Original Date: November 1972
Date Approved by Cabinet: 12-05-06
Authorizing Signature: *signed original on file*
Dated: 12-07-06
Date Posted on Web: 08-10-09
Revised: 07-08
Reviewed: 07-13

Assumptions Basic to District Policy:

- 1) That Blue Mountain Community College has an obligation to its community to promote healthy discussions as an educative force.
- 2) That the truth will prevail in the market place of ideas.
- 3) That our way of life is attractive enough, and our institutions are sturdy enough, to stand comparison with any that exist in any culture.
- 4) That an educated citizenry fully aware of all the evidence is best able to preserve the valuable heritage of American democratic institutions.
- 5) That a free society functions efficiently only if its citizens have the right to discuss, to debate, and to disagree constructively.
- 6) That the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech is meaningful only to the extent that the majority is willing to hear honest expressions of unpopular ideas by minority groups.
- 7) That free discussion is a right extended to thoughtful citizens, but that no one has the right to abuse this freedom by advocating the overthrow of the Government by force.

Within the framework of the orderly processes of our democratic constitutional society, the faculty of Blue Mountain Community College will have freedom to consider all issues that will contribute to the development of its students. The criteria to be followed in selecting issues for study will be:

- 1) The issue must contribute to the prescribed course curriculum and to the general educational program of the College. Academic freedom does not extend to making ad hoc changes in the curriculum by the instructor. Any determination concerning curricular relevance shall rest with the VP of Instruction, who will use the institutional syllabus as a criterion in making the decision.
- 2) It should be of sufficient interest to encourage participation by the students.
- 3) It should provide opportunity for critical thinking, tolerance, and understanding of conflicting points of view.
- 4) It should be one about which sufficient information is available to allow for discussion and evaluation on a factual and reasonable basis.

Not only does the faculty of Blue Mountain Community College have the right to academic freedom, but it also has the obligation to model each of the items above in the education of students.