

ARTICLE 5  
ACADEMIC FREEDOM

5.1 Policy. It is the policy of the University and the UFF to maintain and encourage full academic freedom. Academic freedom and responsibility are essential to the full development of a true university and apply to teaching, research/creative activities, assigned service, and the activities set forth in Sections 10.4(a)(4) and 10.4(a)(5). An employee engaged in such activities shall be free to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and scholarly criticism and to examine ideas in an atmosphere of freedom and confidence.

5.2 Teaching and Research. Consistent with the exercise of academic responsibility, employees shall have freedom to present and discuss their own academic subjects, frankly and forthrightly, without fear of censorship, and to select instructional materials and determine grades in accordance with University policies. Objective and skillful exposition of such subject matter, including the acknowledgment of a variety of scholarly opinions, is the duty of every such employee. Employees shall also be free to engage in scholarly and creative activity and publish the results in a manner consistent with their professional obligations.

5.3 Academic Responsibility. Academic freedom is accompanied by the corresponding responsibility on the part of employees to:

- (a) Observe and uphold the ethical standards of their disciplines in the pursuit and communication of scientific and scholarly knowledge;
- (b) Adhere to their proper roles as teachers, researchers, intellectual mentors, or counselors;
- (c) Respect students, staff, and colleagues as individuals; treat them in a professional manner; and avoid any exploitation of such persons for private advantage.
- (d) Respect the integrity of the evaluation process, by evaluating students, staff, and colleagues fairly according to the criteria the evaluation process specifies;
- (e) Contribute to the orderly and effective functioning of their academic unit i.e., program, department, school and/or college and/or the University;
- (f) Observe the regulations of the University, provided they do not contravene the provisions of this Agreement.
- (g) Be forthright and honest in the pursuit and communication of scientific and scholarly knowledge; and
- (h) Indicate when appropriate that one is not an institutional representative unless specifically authorized as such.