

PL-ACADEMIC-014: Academic Freedom Policy

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Policy Description

The dissemination of knowledge through teaching, research and service is an integral component of the University's mission. The Board of Regents recognizes that freedom of inquiry and expression is indispensable for this purpose and believes that the administration and faculty should cooperate to create a productive academic environment.

Who Should Know This Policy

- President
- Vice President
- Legal Advisor
- Dean
- Director/ Department Head
- Faculty
- Accounting/ Finance Personnel
- Student
- All Employees

Academic Freedom

Academic Freedom is the right of all faculty members to freely study, discuss, investigate, teach, conduct research, and publish as appropriate to their respective roles and responsibilities. Because the common good depends upon the free search for and exposition of truth and understanding, full freedom in research and publication is essential, as is the freedom to discuss scholarly subjects in the classroom.

Within the scope of this policy, academic freedom implies faculty are:

1. entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subjects in ways that enhance learning and promote student development;
2. entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of their findings, in adherence to the commonly acceptable practices of conducting and publishing research;
3. recognize that their special position in the community imposes special obligations including the following: they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not necessarily representing the views of the institution;
4. entitled to participate in professional and representative academic bodies inside and outside Qatar.

In exercising their academic freedom, all those involved should realize that:

- Academic freedom does not exempt a faculty member from acting responsibly and carrying the responsibilities and duties defined in University bylaws, regulations, rules and similar management documents.
- A faculty member should recognize that the right of academic freedom is enjoyed by all members of the academic community. The faculty member should be prepared at all times to support actively the right of the individual to freedom of research and communication.
- A faculty member should maintain the mutual respect and confidence of his/her colleagues. He or she should endeavor to understand the customs and traditions of the academic community. He or she should also respect the culture and traditions of Qatar.
- A faculty member enjoys the same freedom as defined in the Constitution of Qatar and other laws applicable in the country.

A faculty member who feels that his/her academic freedom has been threatened or limited in some way, can address the issue through proper complaint and grievance policy and procedures defined in the Faculty Handbook and other University policies.