

Mid-Atlantic Christian University
Academic Affairs Policy #25

SUBJECT: Academic Freedom

DATE: September 9, 2009

REVISED: 3/13/13; 2/2023

NEXT SCHEDULED REVIEW: February of odd-numbered years.

APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: May 2015

Policy for: Department of Academic Affairs

Procedure for: Human Resource Office and the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Authorized by: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Issued by: Board of Trustees

I. Purpose

The University seeks to create an atmosphere in which there is a friendly forum for the discussion of ideas and the production of creative work among faculty and academic staff.

II. Policy

Faculty members may exercise their freedom to think, speak, write and act within the parameters of the central convictions of the institution. The University community accepts the Word of God, revealed in the Christian Scriptures, as truth revealed by God. All faculty members must, accordingly, hold to the authority of Scripture, must believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior, and must openly seek to live in accordance with his teaching. Differences in the interpretation and application of Scripture on matters that do not undermine the foundations of the Christian faith are accepted among faculty members.

Faculty members are required to reaffirm annually their belief, without reservation, in the Statement of Faith in the University By-laws. Further, if a faculty member becomes aware that he or she holds opinions or beliefs concerning foundational doctrines contrary to those typical of the faculty as a whole, he or she should take the initiative to alert the VPAA to this situation.

Within this framework the University guarantees to each member of its Faculty:

1. freedom to pursue and retain titles to publications, copyrights, or patents resulting from research, without any form of censorship, or reprisal, provided such activities do not interfere with the discharge of assigned academic responsibilities, do not

undermine the foundational beliefs of the University and are subject to the provisions of the Intellectual Property Policy. The University may commission writing or research in which case the title and any fiduciary benefits may be retained by the University.

2. freedom of classroom discussion with the understanding that the discussion is relevant to the course objectives.
3. freedom to act, write and to speak as a citizen and a person, provided that such activities may not interfere with the discharge of assigned academic responsibilities or compromise the integrity of the University. No faculty member may act on behalf of the University without express authorization from the Vice President for Academic Affairs in consultation with the President of the University.

Academic freedom for librarians. Professional librarians are often present at the point of student contact with ideas. Therefore, librarians are accorded the privileges of academic freedom when:

1. selecting publications, particularly when consulting with teaching faculty. This includes determining what to discard from an existing collection and what to accept or refuse from donors,
2. determining restrictions on circulation or access to library materials, especially when advised by teaching faculty,
3. determining the degree of prominence in shelving selected library materials,
4. issuing bibliographies that may include controversial publications, and
5. advising students what to read or study, particularly when this advice is given in response to student requests for research assistance.

III. Procedure

The Human Resource Office of the Department of Finance for MACU will distribute annually the university's doctrinal statement to each full-time faculty member and have them sign the document.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs will include in Adjunct Faculty Contracts a line that indicates that by signing the contract the signee is in agreement with the university's doctrinal statement.

IV. Published: Policy Manual, Faculty Handbook, Adjunct Faculty Handbook

V. Reason for Revision

VI. Appendices