
Senate Recommendation to the Provost

Originating Body: Faculty Senate

Originator: Chrys Egan

Date Submitted: April 9, 2019

Requested Effective Date: May 1, 2019

Recommendation: Reexamining and Strengthening SU's Policy on Academic Freedom

Attached: Passed motion attached

Date Approved by the Faculty Senate: March 26, 2019

Chrys Egan

4/9/19

President, Faculty Senate

Date

Action Taken by Provost

Date: 7/8/19

☒ Recommendation Accepted

☐ Recommendation Not Accepted

☐ Recommendation returned to the Originating Body for further review (see attached)

Disposition for Approved Recommendation:

☒ President

☒ VP Student Affairs

☒ Faculty Senate President

☐ VP Finance

☐ Consortium Chair

☒ School Deans

☐ Webmaster

☒ Graduate Council

☐ Catalogue Editor

☒ Provost Council

Karen Quistad

7/9/19

Provost

Date

Sent out
7/9/19

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION
Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Reexamining and Strengthening SU's Policy on Academic Freedom

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: Adam H. Wood

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION: Alexander Pope

MOTION: The Faculty Senate charges the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AFT) to reexamine the current SU Policy on Academic Freedom and to recommend, if necessary, changes that will both clarify and strengthen the definition of Academic Freedom, and to draft a processes a faculty member should pursue if they feel that their Academic Freedom is being threatened or violated.

Amendments made at the meeting:

JUSTIFICATION: On November 11, 2018, the Faculty Senate passed a motion charging the Faculty Welfare Committee and the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure "to draft additional processes outlining roles and expectations for cases when faculty members are exposed to threats or attacks related to their teaching, scholarship, or service, and to draft procedures, as needed." The point of this charge, though, was to address the fact that "faculty are under increasing scrutiny from media groups or others representing particular agendized ideologies"—that is, scrutiny from groups or individuals who may be *outside of the university*. And while AFT has weighed in on the "Online Harassment To Do List" that was created by the Faculty Welfare committee, it is time to reexamine the University's current statement on Academic Freedom. Passed in 2015 the current statement on Academic Freedom has not been revisited, despite increased national concerns regarding attacks from outside the university, and clear cases of attacks against SU faculty. AFT should consider changes to the current statement on Academic Freedom that potentially strengthen its language so faculty clearly understand their rights. AFT should also consider proposing a policy on how and to whom faculty can appeal if they feel that their Academic Freedom is being threatened or violated.

Current statement: <https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/academic-affairs/files/Academic%20Freedom%20Resolution2015.pdf>

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

Negative: None

Positive: A reexamined and strengthened policy will help to ensure that SU acknowledges and respects Academic Freedom in all of its forms.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes X

No

Is this a recommendation to someone else? No

Yes, to Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure

VOTE: Number of Senators Present: 17 Votes in Favor: ample

Motion Passes