



# CAL STATE LA

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

## MEMO

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**Date:** May 1, 2025

**To:** Andre Avramchuk, Chair  
Academic Senate

**From:** Lettycia Terrones, Chair  
Faculty Policy Committee

**Copies:** T. Bettcher, E. Heise, J. Dennis, R. Roquemoire, V. Dom

**Subject:** Proposed Policy Deletion Chapter VI (Personnel & Professional Policies) of the Faculty Handbook: Principles of Academic Freedom

FPC incorporated the Principles of Academic Freedom policy language into the Faculty Rights policy to consolidate, and thus make stronger, the assertion about faculty rights to full academic freedom in research, publication of research, and faculty rights to academic freedom in teaching, including discussion of controversial issues and the right to challenge ideas.

In lieu of the incorporation of the Academic Freedom Policy in the Faculty Rights policy, FPC proposes the deletion of the current Principles of Academic Freedom policy.

FPC maintains that Faculty Rights and the Principles of Academic Freedom policies should be easily be accessible in the Faculty Handbook so that Cal State LA faculty can easily understand their rights and the process by which others (students, fellow faculty, administrators, and outside parties) can oppose or critique their teaching, discussions in the classroom, and scholarship.

## **PRINCIPLES OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

(Senate: 1/19/67; President: 1/31/67, 2/6/67)

1. Faculty members are entitled to freedom of discussion in the classroom and on the campus. It is here assumed that discussion in the classroom is relevant to the subject matter taught, although no formula predetermining relevance either can or should be imposed.
2. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the requirement of adequate performance of duties.
3. College or university faculty members are citizens and members of learned professions. When speaking or writing as citizens, they are free from institutional censorship or discipline. At the same time, they will recognize their responsibilities as members of learned professions.

The limitation of these statements to issues particularly affecting faculty members, in keeping with the scope of this Handbook, does not imply that issues of academic freedom affecting student members of the university community may not properly be brought before the Committee on Academic Freedom and Professional Ethics when such questions have not been resolved by the university administration.