

Santiago Canyon College Academic Senate

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SENATORS

Business and Career Education

Deeley, Steve 2018
Salcido, Andrew 2017

Continuing Education (OEC)

Quimzon, Eden 2017

Counseling & Student Services

Aguilera, Leonor 2017
Baldizon-Rios, Nena 2018
Crabill, Phillip 2018

Humanities and Social Sciences

Cannon, Cari 2017
Howell, Scott 2018
DelaCusack, Lisa 2017
Reed, Stephen 2017
Umali Kopp, Christine 2018

Fine & Performing Arts and Communication

Kubicka-Miller, Jared 2018

Library

Sproat, Barbara 2018

Mathematics and Sciences

Bailey, Denise 2017
Cummins, Shawn 2017
Frost, Alicia 2017
Scott, Randy 2018
Wada, Jeffrey 2018

Adjunct

Clatterbuck, Shelby 2017
Parent, Nancy 2017

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Resolution S2017.10

Adoption of the Academic Freedom Task Force Recommendations

Moved: Professor Howell

Seconded: Professor Umali-Kopp

Whereas, Academic Senate Resolution S2017.3 created a task force to investigate the policies regarding academic freedom at Santiago Canyon College and the Rancho Santiago Canyon Community College District; and

Whereas, The Academic Freedom Task Force has determined that current policy provides sufficient safeguards; and

Whereas, The Academic Freedom Task Force has drafted a report of their findings that should be made publicly available;

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of Santiago Canyon College shall create on the Academic Senate webpage an Academic Freedom tab that shall contain the findings of the Academic Freedom Task Force, a copy of Board Policy 4030, and a copy of portions of the American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure.

Date Presented: May 30, 2017

Date Passed: September 5, 2017

Santiago Canyon College is an innovative learning community dedicated to intellectual and personal growth. Our purpose is to foster student success and to help students achieve these core outcomes: to learn, to act, to communicate and to think critically. We are committed to maintaining standards of excellence and providing accessible, transferable, and engaging education to a diverse community. (Approved 9/10/13)

As Academic Freedom allows Santiago Canyon College Faculty the latitude to engage students in a manner they deem best appropriate for student success, Academic Freedom is of paramount importance to the Academic Senate at Santiago Canyon College. Because of this, the Academic Senate is committed to not only regularly reviewing policies regarding Academic Freedom but to allowing space and time for the discussion of best practices as it relates to Academic Freedom.

A formal discussion regarding Academic Freedom emerged at the Spring 2017 Senate Retreat. Later that semester, the Senate approved Resolution S2017.3 which created a group to further examine the District's policy on academic freedom (Board Policy 4030). This came about as a result of the political climate at the time and events at another Orange County community college that brought the issue to the surface. The Academic Freedom Task Force was formed in order to engage in additional discussion regarding BP 4030 and determine whether or not an additional, separate policy needed to be created specifically by and for faculty. Academic Senate representatives were also asked to obtain feedback from their faculty constituents regarding Academic Freedom concerns and recommendations.

The Academic Freedom Task Force, which consisted of faculty from Astronomy, Counseling, English, History, Math, and Psychology, was asked to critically discuss BP 4030 along with Academic Freedom policies from other districts and advising bodies (e.g., AAUP). This task force was asked to determine: 1) whether or not BP 4030 was sufficient in its protections of faculty; and 2) if this policy adequately described the concept of Academic Freedom or whether an additional recommendation was needed.

In May 2017, the Academic Freedom Task Force determined that, in fact, BP 4030 appeared to sufficiently protect the faculty's Academic Freedom as well as delineate associated responsibilities and student rights in the classroom. Also, existing literature such as that published by the American Association of University Professors was seen as an available resource to further define best practices. The group felt that no other policy needed to be created. With students' classroom experience in mind, the Academic Senate also recommended that ASG collaborate with students to create a separate Student Bill of Rights in the near future.

RSCCD

BP 4030 Academic Freedom

Reference: Title 5, Section 51023; ACCJC Accreditation Eligibility Requirement 20 and AACJC Accreditation Standard I.C.7 (formerly II.A.7)

The teacher should be free to think and to express ideas, free to select and employ materials and methods of instruction, free from undue pressures of authority, and free to act within his/her professional group. Such freedom should be used judiciously and prudently to the end that it promotes the free exercise of intelligence and student learning. Academic freedom is not an absolute. It must be exercised within the law and the basic ethical responsibilities of the teaching profession. Those responsibilities include: BP

1. An understanding of our democratic tradition and its methods.
2. A concern for the welfare, growth, maturity, and development of students.
3. The method of scholarship.
4. Application of good taste and judgment in selecting and employing materials and methods of instruction.

Revised July 21, 2014 (Previously BP4201)

References Updated May 18, 2015

Academic Freedom AAUP

1. Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.⁴ Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment.⁵
3. College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence 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 speaking for the institution.⁶