

Northern Marianas College
Board Of Regents Policy

SUBJECT:	College Operations (Academic Affairs)	EFFECTIVE:	August 09, 2013
SECTION:	3000	POLICY NAME:	Academic Freedom
ACCJC Standard/Policy:	Standard II.A.7.		

1. **General Principles:** The primary responsibility of the academic community is to provide for the enrichment of intellectual experience. Essential to the realization of this ideal is a free and open academic community which takes no ideological or policy position itself. The responsible academic community welcomes those who do take an ideological or policy position and jealously guards their right to do so. Conflict of ideas cannot occur unless there is opportunity for a variety of viewpoints to be expressed. Toleration of what may be error is an inescapable condition of the meaningful pursuit of truth. The academic community must be hospitable even to closed minds and it must welcome the conflict of ideas likely to ensue. Academic responsibility to provide opportunity for expression of diverse points of view generates academic freedom.

2. **Faculty:** Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties. They are also entitled to freedom in lecturing or conducting demonstrations in their subject or field of competence. They are entitled as any other member of the community in which they live to establish membership in voluntary groups, to seek or hold public office, to express their opinions as individuals on public questions and to take action in accordance with their views. Cognizant of their responsibilities to their profession and to their institution, faculty accept certain obligations; they should attempt to be accurate, to exercise sound judgment and respect the rights of others to express opinions. They must make clear that their actions, their statements and their memberships so not necessarily represent views of the academic community. If there are controls to be exercised over faculty members, they are the controls of personal integrity and the judgment of their colleagues.

2. **Students:** Students are entitled to be taught by unfettered instructors and to have access to all information pertinent to their subjects of study. They are entitled to as complete freedom as possible in the selection of their curriculum, instructors, and associates. Moreover, they have a right to intellectual disagreement with their instructors and associates and to question them without fear of recrimination or punishment. They also are entitled to seek the publication of their views, to seek membership in voluntary groups, to seek or hold public office, and to take lawful action in accordance with their views. Students also have the responsibility to make clear that their actions, memberships, and statements do not represent the views of the academic community.

Northern Marianas College
Board Of Regents Policy

4. **Guest Speakers, Movies, and Other Programs:** A college or university by its very nature cannot pay lip service to the concept of freedom of expression and then deny persons with whom is in disagreement the opportunity of giving expression to their views. Furthermore, a policy that extends the right of freedom of expression to some persons and denies to others, places the institution in the position of endorsing the past records and views of those who are given permission to speak. Therefore, a speaker, performer, or program may be presented under the sponsorship of any duly recognized student, faculty, or administrative organization or any individual officer of instruction. It is not necessary that the point of view presented be congenial to the campus, members of the staff or student body individually, or to individual members of the wider community. The speaker must be accorded the courtesy of any uninterrupted presentation. Except for ceremonial occasions, speakers must accept as condition of their appearance the right of their audience to question or challenge statements made in their address. Questions must be permitted from the floor at the end of the presentation, unless prevented by physical limitations, or the size of the audience. The invitation or scheduling of such a program must represent the desire of the institutional sponsor and not the will of external individuals or organizations. The sponsor must establish full responsibility for the program and should help to establish the concept that the point of view expressed in an address or performance does not necessarily represent the position of the academic community. Such presentations must at all times be consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the United States.

HISTORY:

Replaces Board Policy No. 301.1 (Academic Affairs Policy: Adopted 4/28/89; Amended 04/30/93, 9/20/96 and 6/02/00)