

**AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Policy Number: 5:063	Supersedes Policy Number: 5:010
Date: October 12, 2004	Dated: January 13, 2003
Subject: Academic Freedom and Responsibility	
Initiating Authority: Vice President for Academic Affairs	TBR Policy/Guideline Reference: 5:02:03:30
<p>Approved: Austin Peay State University will follow TBR Policy 5:02:03:30 until such time as former APSU Policy 5:010 is revised to reflect the new TBR policy. When revised, the new policy will be posted as 5:063.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">President: Signature on file</p>	

**I. GENERAL**

The following APSU policy is in compliance with the TBR policy on Academic Freedom and Responsibility.

APSU endorses the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors as revised and refined since 1940, and also the Statement on Professional Ethics of the same organization, insofar as these are not limited by State law or the policies of the Board of Regents of the State University and Community College System of Tennessee. The University also regards the AAUP's POLICY DOCUMENTS & REPORTS (1984) as a useful philosophic and practical guide to academic rights and responsibilities.

**II. ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY**

The University recognizes the principle of academic freedom, including:

- A. The faculty member is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his or her subject, being careful not to introduce into the teaching unrelated subject matter.
- B. The faculty member is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his/her other academic duties. Research for financial gain must be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the university, which is documented reduced to writing and signed by the faculty member and the appropriate academic officer(s).
- C. The faculty member is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational university. When the faculty member speaks or writes

as a citizen, he/she should be free from university censorship or discipline, but his/her special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a man or woman of learning and an educational officer, he/she should remember that the public may judge the profession and the university by the faculty member's utterances. Hence, a faculty member 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 he/she does not speak for the university.

Academic freedom is essential to fulfill the ultimate objectives of an educational university - the free search for and expression of truth - and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth, and academic freedom in teaching is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the faculty member in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. Implicit in the principle of academic freedom are the corollary responsibilities of the faculty who enjoy that freedom. Incompetence, indolence, intellectual dishonesty, failure to carry out assigned duties, serious moral dereliction, arbitrary and capricious disregard of standards of professional conduct - these and other grounds as set forth in TBR Policy, "Policy on Academic Tenure at Tennessee Board of Regents' Universities, "Section P., may constitute adequate cause for dismissal or other disciplinary sanctions against faculty members subject to the provisions of Article III.

The right to academic freedom imposes upon the faculty an equal obligation to take appropriate professional action against faculty members who are derelict in discharging their professional responsibilities. The faculty member has an obligation to participate in tenure and promotion review of colleagues as specified in university policy. Thus, academic freedom and academic responsibility are interdependent, and academic tenure is adopted as a means to protect the former while promoting the latter. While academic tenure is essential for the protection of academic freedom, all faculty members, tenured or non-tenured, have an equal right to academic freedom and bear the same academic responsibilities implicit in that freedom.