

## **BP 4030 Academic Freedom**

### **Reference:**

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

The Academic Freedom policy of the Antelope Valley Community College District is part of the Antelope Valley College Faculty Collective Bargaining Agreement with the District (Article VII, Section 7.0, Academic Freedom).

### **Academic Freedom Policy:**

Freedom of expression is a legal right protected by the Constitution of the United States. This right is especially important in the academy. Academic freedom in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge in an educational environment shall be ensured and maintained. Such freedom shall be recognized as a right of all members of the faculty, whether of tenure or non-tenure rank.

To ensure this freedom, faculty shall not be subjected to censorship or discipline solely on the grounds that he or she has expressed opinions or views, or provided access to opinions or views, which are controversial or unpopular. Antelope Valley College faculty have a special responsibility to insist that their institution does not yield to ephemeral passion or heavy community pressures to take hasty actions that may infringe on freedom of expression.

Faculty have responsibility to present the subject matter of their courses as announced to students and as approved by the faculty in their collective responsibility for the curriculum. However, since instructors are responsible for implementing the learning process, they therefore have the freedom to select materials, methods of application, and procedures in carrying out their job duties. A faculty member is also free to present and discuss subject matter in a practical and relevant format. In areas of controversy, one has the right to express an opinion related to subject matter, and an expression of differing points of view should be allowed and encouraged. Within and beyond the academic community, a faculty member is free to speak or write, as a citizen, without fear of institutional censorship or discipline.

A faculty member is entitled to freedom in research and in publication and shall have exclusive right to all materials, which are the product of that person's mind and talent, unless there is a mutually acceptable contract to the contrary.

If academic freedom of a faculty member is either impeded or brought into question, the code of ethics shall be consulted and the grievance policy shall be followed.

Adopted: 2/6/06

Revised: 4/13/2015