

**Revision Responsibility:** Vice President for Academic Affairs  
**Responsible Executive Officer:** Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Source/Reference:** [TBR Policy 5:02:03:30](#)

## **PURPOSE**

To define academic freedom and establish expectations for academic responsibility for faculty.

## **POLICY**

- I. Columbia State adheres to TBR Policy 5:02:03:30 relative to academic freedom and responsibility. The TBR policy is incorporated into this policy by reference herein and may be accessed through the TBR web site:

TBR Policy 5:02:03:30 – Academic Freedom and Responsibility

- II. All faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, being careful not to introduce into the teaching unrelated subject matter that has no relation to the subject.

All faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties, including and consistent with any and all policies pertaining to clinical and research practices. Research for financial gain must be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the Institution, which is documented in writing and signed by the faculty member and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

- III. All faculty members are individuals, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When the faculty member speaks or writes as a private individual, he or she should be free from Institutional censorship or discipline, but his or her special position in the community imposes special obligations. As persons of learning and educational officers, he or she should remember that the public may judge the profession and the Institution by the faculty member's communications. 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 or she does not speak for the College.
- IV. Academic freedom is essential to fulfill the ultimate objectives of an educational institution – the free search for an exposition of truth – and applies to teaching, research, and faculty participation in institutional governance. 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. Faculty participation in institutional governance is fundamental to the development and maintenance of effective academic policies, national and regional accreditation, and shared responsibility for the delivery of educational programs and services to students. 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 to standards of professional conduct – these and other grounds set forth in TBR Policy may constitute adequate cause for dismissal or other disciplinary sanctions against faculty members.

- V. 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 Columbia State Policies 05:12:00 and 05:14:00. 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, the full benefits and responsibilities of academic freedom extend to all individuals teaching in the TBR System, whether or not they are eligible for tenure.

*January 1989; Revised: May 28, 2001 (new policy format); July 27, 2004 (Section I rewritten; Section III statement on monetary gain rewritten; sentence on faculty member's participation in tenure and promotion review added to last paragraph); November 13, 2004 (updated to reflect changes in TBR policy); September 15, 2011 (corrected policy number, new policy format and updated titles) Revised September 2019; reviewed/accepted by Cabinet, approved/signed by the President*