

Faculty Code of Ethics

Preamble: The following is a statement defining some areas of ethical behavior towards students by faculty. It is based on discussions held at a workshop for faculty and staff in the spring of 1987. The Equity Committee unanimously passed the following statement. This statement has been endorsed by the Faculty Senate and sent to all members of the faculty and to all administrators as a statement of professional standards.

1. Recognizing that, at times, students will offer us gifts or favors, we must be aware of potential implications. Acceptance of such offerings should be avoided.
2. Recognizing that student sensitivities must be respected, we must appreciate that remarks based on gender, race, religious or ethnic group, physical handicap or sexual orientation are inappropriate in the classroom environment.
3. Recognizing that instructors are concerned with the welfare of students and that students will, at times, wish to share information of a personal nature, it is appropriate for faculty to listen sympathetically to students but not to elicit, reveal or exploit confidential information.
4. Recognizing that while amorous relationships are appropriate in other circumstances, we accept that such relationships are always inappropriate when they occur between any faculty member and his or her student. Further, such relationships may have the effect of undermining the atmosphere of trust on which the educational process depends. Implicit in the idea of professionalism is the recognition by those in positions of authority that in their relationships with students there is always an element of power. It is incumbent upon those with authority, not to abuse, nor appear to abuse, the power with which they are entrusted.
5. Recognizing that under certain circumstances touching students may be appropriate, we acknowledge that sexual touching of a student by an instructor is never appropriate.
6. Professional interaction between students and instructors should always take place in an academic setting.
7. Instructors should never engage in nor condone sexual harassment. In the academic context, the term "sexual harassment" may be used to describe a wide range of behavior. The fundamental element is the unwelcomed personal attention by an instructor who is in a position to determine a student's grade or student employment or otherwise affect the student's academic performance or professional future.

Faculty Statement of Professional Ethics

- I. Faculty members, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their subjects is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end they devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly and teaching competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Although they may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise their freedom of inquiry.
- II. As teachers, faculty members encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly standards of their discipline. They demonstrate respect for the student as an individual and adhere to their proper role as intellectual guides and counselors. They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that their evaluation of students reflects their true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between faculty member and student. They avoid any exploitation of students for their private advantage and acknowledge significant assistance from them. They protect their academic freedom.
- III. As colleagues, faculty members have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. They respect and defend the free inquiry of their associates.
- IV. In the exchange of criticism and ideas they show due respect for the opinions of others. They acknowledge their academic debts and strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. They accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.
- IV. As members of their institution, faculty members seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although they observe the stated regulations of the institution, provided they do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain their right to criticize and seek revision. They determine the amount and character of the work they do outside their institution with due regard to their paramount responsibilities within it. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, they recognize the effect of their decision upon the program of the institution and give due notice of their intentions.
- V. As members of their community, faculty members have the rights and obligations of any citizen. They measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of their responsibilities to their subject, to their students, to their profession and to their institution. When they speak or act as private persons, they avoid creating the impression that they speak or act for their college or university. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, faculty members have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.