

Regulations of Florida A&M University



10.203 Academic Freedom and Responsibility.

(1) This ~~rule~~regulation is supplemented by the Board of ~~Regents~~Trustees/United Faculty of Florida (~~BOR/UFF~~) (BOT/UFF) Collective Bargaining Agreement, for those employees who are members of the faculty collective bargaining unit.

(2) Academic Freedom and Responsibility.

(a) The University believes that academic freedom and responsibility are essential to the full development of a true university, and such freedom and responsibility applies to teaching, research, service, and creativity. Consistent with the exercise of academic responsibility, a teacher must have freedom in the classroom in discussing academic subjects. The university student must likewise have the opportunity to study a full spectrum of ideas, opinions, and beliefs, so that the student may acquire maturity for analysis and judgment. Objective and skillful exposition of such matters is the duty of every instructor.

(b) The established policy of the University continues to be that the faculty employee must fulfill his/her responsibility to society and to his/her profession by manifesting academic competence, scholarly discretion, and good citizenship. The university instructor is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an academic officer of the University. The instructor should be constantly mindful that these roles may be inseparable in the public view, and should therefore at all times exercise appropriate restraint and good judgment.

(3) Morals and Influence.

(a) It has long been the established policy of the University that it shall select faculty members of good moral character and of the highest educational background. The University is also concerned with the careful selection of students and with their continuing social, economic, moral and spiritual welfare.

(b) In order to assure a wholesome educational environment, the University has adopted the following policies:

1. Citizenship and Conduct – The University will continue to examine carefully the qualifications and records of those individuals who are to be employed by it, not only with regard to their professional and academic competency, but also with regard to their general character and their moral conduct. Furthermore, the University will continue to exercise due care in the selection of students. The University will continue to guard against activities subversive to the American democratic process and against illegal behavior.

2. Religion – Religion plays a vital role in our American way of life and inevitably this subject will arise in classroom discussions. Religion may be properly discussed and analyzed there. The instructor bears and responsibility of pursuing such discussions objectively and impartially, without advocacy or indoctrination and with due respect for the religious beliefs of all concerned.

3. Books and Teaching Materials – The University continues its concern that students be exposed to the best in books and teaching materials. While recognizing the right and responsibility of the individual scholar to choose teaching materials, the University enjoins each member of the faculty to select materials that are among the best available, germane and in good taste within the context of the educational or scientific purpose.

(4) Implementation of Policy.

(a) The President or President's designee will charge the deans, and the faculty of the University to adhere to these standards within an atmosphere of academic excellence, freedom and responsibility.

(b) In reemphasizing its policy, the President or President's designee makes completely clear his/her confidence in the high quality of the administration, faculty, and students in the University. The intent of this policy and the spirit in which it is to be implemented is that of preserving this high quality on a continuing basis.

(5) Conclusion – The President or President’s designee encourages the faculty to exercise their ingenuity and creativity in order to bring to students the maximum benefits of an enlightened education. It is further encouraged that such exercises be tempered with responsibility and due regard for sound educational principles.

Specific Authority: 1001.74 and 1001.75 FS; 447.203(2) FS. History–New 5-6-82, Amended 6-27-96.