

Excerpts from NDU Faculty Handbook

Page 1:

Academic freedom is not an indulgence but a necessity to realize the university's aspirations.² The National Defense University has subscribed and continues to subscribe to the American Association of University Professors' Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom, issued in 1940 with its added interpretations of 1970.

The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom is therefore understood to be essential to the U.S. national interest, and upheld by the United States Supreme Court as a right protected by the First Amendment (Keyishian v. Board of Education, 385 U.S. 589-1967).

Page 2:

Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the [faculty] appointment.

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"The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, under provisions and requirements of Title 10, United States Code, has directed the President of the National Defense University to establish a climate of academic freedom within the university to foster thorough and lively academic debate, and to examine national security issues.⁷ To continue to craft the best possible national security policy for the United States and offer the best possible advice to U.S. leaders, students, the faculty of the university must be free to examine policy from all viewpoints. It is therefore a combination of academic freedom enhanced by non-attribution that facilitates the achievement of the desired U.S. national capabilities.⁸"

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"Non-attribution is a policy well-entrenched at National Defense University. That is so to enable and encourage the university community and visiting guests to speak candidly. The policy assures that presentations offered and discussions held are conducted in strict confidence. The university assures that nothing will be attributed to speakers directly or indirectly without their expressed permission.⁹"

From footnote 8, page 2:

“Academic Freedom at National Defense University is defined as freedom to pursue and express ideas, opinions, and issues germane to the University’s stated mission, free of limitations, restraints, or coercion by the University or external environment. Academic freedom is the hallmark of an academic institution.”

Page 3:

“... NDU values and upholds academic freedom inside and outside the classroom.”

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“No subject or issue is considered taboo, and there are no approved “school solutions.” Students are encouraged—indeed expected—to look at issues from a new perspective , to take nothing for granted, and to question everything they read and hear, no matter how authoritative the source.¹⁰”

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“Academic freedom is recognized by DOD Directive 5230.9, Clearance of DOD Information for Public Release. The directive requires that personnel in the school environment have the widest latitude to express their views, normally restricted only by security considerations.”

Page 4: Under sub heading “Political Intervention in Education”:

“The academy requires that inquiry and analysis be guided by evidence and ethics, unfettered by political intervention. A college or university must be sensitive to the conditions of society in which it exists, but it must also be free to determine how to be most responsive and responsible. Political interference in the affairs of an educational institution presents a threat to its freedom and effectiveness. Direct intervention by elected or appointed officials, political parties, or pressure groups in the selection of faculty, the determination of curricula, textbooks, course content, or in admissions or retention policies, inject factors which are often inimical to the fulfillment of an institution’s mission. In the matter of appointments, for example, political control at any level results in divided loyalty and weakened authority. To impose political considerations upon faculty selection and retention harms an institution intellectually and educationally, not only by reducing its options in the recruitment of talent, but also by creating pressures against dissent on important policy issues...¹⁴”

Page 5 under subtitle “Institutional Responsibility”:

“The National Defense University is committed to empower its faculty to carry out its profession, and to the faculty’s professional development, academic values, intellectual freedom, and general welfare.”

“The AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure mandates the following academic practice:

- **The precise terms and conditions of every appointment should be stated in writing and be in the possession of both institution and teacher before the appointment is consummated.**”

Page 8 under subtitle “Adjudication and Oversight”:

“The National Defense University’s Provost is vested with the responsibility to adjudicate cases involving academic freedom. In case of dispute, the Provost may form advisory committees composed of academics, and specifically faculty members involved in teaching and research. The Provost will have oversight responsibilities to assure the NDU Policy on Academic Freedom is observed and implemented.”