

Title : Guidance on Academic Freedom
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Eastern Arizona College (the College) follows the guidance on academic freedom offered by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP):

“Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interests of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for the truth and its free exposition...Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. The presumption that students need to be protected rather than challenged in a classroom is at once infantilizing and anti-intellectual. It makes comfort a higher priority than intellectual engagement. Some discomfort is inevitable in classrooms if the goal is to expose students to new ideas, have them question beliefs they have taken for granted, grapple with ethical problems they have never considered, and, more generally, expand their horizons so as to become informed and responsible democratic citizens.”

As faculty expects courtesy, even-handed treatment, and freedom from arbitrary retaliation, so too should students be afforded the courtesy to challenge claims and offer differing opinions without the fear of reprisals.

From the AAUP: “When [instructors] speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers . . . the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they 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 they are not speaking for the institution.”

To support these principles of academic freedom, the administration of the College will demonstrate its support by actively and openly working toward a climate which will foster this freedom. Such participation will extend to the point of defending and supporting any faculty member who, while in the course and scope of performing his/her assigned duties and maintaining the high standards of his/her profession within his/her assigned curriculum, finds his/her freedom of expression attacked or curtailed.

