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Academic Freedom Policy

Purpose: To define Academic Freedom within the LIGS University community and to articulate the institution's commitment to its tenets and intentions.

Policy Statement:

LIGS University affirms that those in its community, including students, faculty, staff, administrators and members of its Governing Board, are free to share their convictions and responsible conclusions with their colleagues and students in their teaching and writing.

LIGS University endorses the spirit and content of the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) Statement on Academic Freedom (1940).

"Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.⁴ Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment.⁵

College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they 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, they should remember that 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."

Application to Non-Faculty Members of the LIGS University Community:

The spirit and content of the AAUP Statement on Academic Freedom applies to all members of the LIGS University community: students, faculty, staff, administrators and members of the Governing Board.

In Case of Perceived Violation

Members of the LIGS University community who perceive that their rights to Academic Freedom have been violated may initiate a formal complaint via the Academic Dean and may expect the matter to be resolved within 45 days.