

American Council on Education



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faculty should be disadvantaged or evaluated on the basis of their political opinions. Any member of the campus community who believes he or she has been treated unfairly on academic matters must have access to a clear institutional process by which his or her grievance can be addressed.

- The validity of academic ideas, theories, arguments and views should be measured against the intellectual standards of relevant academic and professional disciplines. Application of these intellectual standards does not mean that all ideas have equal merit. The responsibility to judge the merits of competing academic ideas rests with colleges and universities and is determined by reference to the standards of the academic profession as established by the community of scholars at each institution.
- Government's recognition and respect for the independence of colleges and universities is essential for academic and intellectual excellence. Because colleges and universities have great discretion and autonomy over academic affairs, they have a particular obligation to ensure that academic freedom is protected for all members of the campus community and that academic decisions are based on intellectual standards consistent with the mission of each institution.

June 23, 2005

The following organizations have endorsed this statement:

- American Association of Community Colleges
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- American Association of University Professors
- American Council on Education
- American Dental Education Association
- American Political Science Association
- Association of American Colleges and Universities
- Association of American Law Schools
- Association of American Universities
- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
- Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers
- Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
- The College Board
- College Student Educators International
- College and University Professional Association for Human Resources

- Council for Advancement and Support of Education
- Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation
- Council for Opportunity in Education
- Council of Graduate Schools
- Council of Independent Colleges
- EDUCAUSE
- National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
- National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
- University Continuing Education Association

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