

## Academic Freedom Policy – April 13, 2006

San Diego State University is committed to the principles of academic freedom as core values that underlie its mission of teaching, scholarship and creative activity, and service to the public, our community, and the larger scholarly community. The principles of academic freedom are part of broader protections of freedom of expression that are enjoyed by all U.S. citizens. Academic freedom insures that scholarship, whether constituted as formal research and publication, teaching, creative activity, or in the mere exploration of new ideas, is protected from any restriction, harassment, or surveillance, absent a warrant.

San Diego State University also seeks to develop in its students a sense of thoughtful independence. To do so, students, faculty, and instructional staff must be free within the classroom and through scholarly research, creative activity, and community service to explore the widest possible range of viewpoints. The development of the sort of thoughtful intelligence that facilitates the generation of new knowledge carries with it a set of responsibilities that apply to faculty and students alike. These responsibilities are based on shared values such as integrity, fairness, professional and social responsibility, equality of opportunity, confidentiality, honesty and openness, respect for self and others, and freedom and safety. The professional responsibilities of the faculty and the students in carrying out this ideal, as well as procedures to seek redress of grievances, are set forth elsewhere in the University Policy File.

San Diego State University specifically endorses the following portion of the American Council on Education's Statement on Academic Rights and Responsibilities: "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 merit of competing academic ideas rests with colleges and universities and is determined by reference to the standards of the academic profession."

The Trustees of the California State University established standards by which the faculty assesses the work of its individual members. These standards recognize that it is the faculty, working within a system of shared governance, which possesses the unique ability to apply professional standards of judgments about the quality of the various kinds of scholarship undertaken by colleagues. In making these assessments, the faculty also relies on the judgments of a variety of external peer review systems, such as periodic department reviews, editorial boards of scholarly journals and panels constituted to review proposals for funded research.