

Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

Preamble

Academic institutions exist for the transmission of knowledge, the pursuit of truth, the development of students and the general well-being of society. As members of the academic community, students should be encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. The standards of academic freedom for students outlined below are essential to any community of scholars.

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus and in the larger community. Students should exercise their freedom with responsibility by keeping Clemson University Core Values of Integrity, Honesty, and Respect.

The responsibility to secure and to respect general conditions conducive to the freedom to learn is shared by all members of the academic community. The purpose of this statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for student freedom to learn.

I. Rights in the University Community

A. The University, as a community, has the responsibility and right to formulate policies and guidelines to promote the general welfare of its members.

B. As the University is a community in a democracy, students shall have voice in those affairs of the University directly concerning the Student Body.

C. Students are not to consider themselves the sole members of the community in making demands upon the whole community.

II. Rights Concerning Academic Freedoms and Responsibilities

A. Performances shall be judged by achievement in academic areas and not on opinions or conduct unrelated to academic areas.

B. Students will accept all responsibilities concerning required course material and attendance. They shall have protection through orderly procedure against prejudicial or capricious academic evaluation. No faculty member or administrator shall consider it his or her prerogative to go beyond established academic policy.

C. Information concerning student views, beliefs and political associations that professors may acquire in the course of their work shall be considered confidential. Protection against voluntary disclosure is a serious professional obligation.

D. Students whose academic freedoms may have been abridged have the right to seek redress.

III. Rights Concerning Records

A. The University shall have a carefully considered policy as to the information in a student's permanent educational record and as to the conditions of its disclosure. To minimize the risk of improper disclosure, academic and disciplinary records should be separate, and the conditions of access to each shall be explicitly and publicly stated. Transcripts of academic records shall contain only information about academic status.

B. Information in all disciplinary and counseling files shall be available only to authorized persons unless prior written consent is given by the student. Exception of this shall be made in the case of legal subpoena and where there is a possible danger of serious physical harm to the student or to others.

C. No records shall be kept that reflect adversely on the political or religious activities or beliefs of students.

IV. Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

A. Students shall be free to examine and to discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. They shall always be free to support any causes by lawful means. At the same time, it shall be made clear to the academic and larger community that in their public expressions or demonstrations, students or organizations speak only for themselves.

B. Those routine procedures needed in securing speakers will be designed to ensure that there is orderly scheduling of facilities and adequate preparation for the event and that the occasion is conducted in a manner appropriate to an academic community. Although the University is properly concerned with the prevention of unlawful conduct, no control of campus facilities shall be used as a device of censorship. It should be made clear to the academic and larger community that sponsorship of guest speakers does not necessarily imply approval of the views expressed, either by the sponsoring group or the institution.

C. The editorial responsibility for student publications is given to the editor and staff of each publication commensurate with guidelines established by the University. In addition to editorial freedom, which includes freedom from censorship, students

have financial freedom within the framework of approved budgets and expenditures.

D. The editorial freedom of student editors and managers entails a corollary responsibility for responsible journalism. All University-published and financed student publications should explicitly state on the editorial page that the opinions there expressed are not necessarily those of the University.

V. Right to Self Government

A. Students have the right to organize such government to represent student opinion and desires as delegated by the Board of Trustees.

B. Such an organization shall have financial freedom within the framework of its approved budget and expenditures.

C. Such a government shall initiate legislation in areas of student concern.

VI. Right to Trial by Peers

A. Students have the right to trial by peers in cases that have been reserved for the student courts by established University policy.

B. Sanctions may be imposed against a student or student organization for the violation of any student regulations that occur on campus. Sanctions also may be imposed against a student or student organization for violation of any regulations that occur off campus when the alleged conduct would, if true, impair, interfere with, or obstruct the missions, processes, or functions of the University, or when the alleged conduct would, if true, endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the student or others, or would endanger any university property.

VII. Rights Concerning Student Affairs

A. The University shall be open to all qualified persons regardless of race, sex, religion or national origin.

B. Students will be free to organize and associate to promote their common interests.

C. Student organizations are free to invite their own faculty or staff advisers. Advisers may advise organizations in the exercise of responsibility, but they shall not have the authority to control the policy of the organizations.

D. Student organizations are required to publicize information concerning purpose, criteria for membership and a current list of officers. They shall not be required to submit a membership list as a condition of institutional recognition other than an initial list of members.

E. No recognized student organization can be denied access to University facilities if available, unless they prove to be irresponsible in the care of such facilities.

F. Campus organizations shall not deny membership to students solely because of race, sex, color, religion or national origin.

VIII. Rights Concerning Housing

A. Students have the right to choose where they will live, whether it be on or off campus.

B. The student has the right to be secure in his or her possessions against invasion of privacy and unreasonable search and seizure.

C. In all cases, students shall not violate the rights of other students residing in University housing.

D. There is to be no discrimination in University housing assignment based on race, religion or national origin.

IX. Redress of Grievances

In the case where a student's rights as outlined herein are contravened, he or she has the right to petition for redress of grievance in all matters.