Academic Freedom

Northeastern University subscribes to the 1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure issued by the American Association of University Professors and the Association of American Colleges, as amended in 1970. This policy applies to all individuals insofar as they are involved in teaching or scholarship at the University.

The University will impose no restraint upon the extramural pursuits of any member of the faculty unless the time devoted to that pursuit unduly interferes with their obligations to the University or violates the University’s Conflict of Commitment and Interest Policy or the Faculty Handbook module titled “Policy on Faculty Outside Professional Activities.”

The University will impose no limitations upon the freedom of faculty members in the exposition of the subjects they teach, either in the classroom or elsewhere. Faculty members may not claim as a right the privilege of discussing controversial matters outside their own particular fields of study in the classroom. The University will also impose no limitations upon the freedom of faculty members in research/scholarship/creative activity. However, faculty members are expected to exercise appropriate discretion and good judgment. In addition, the Principles of Academic Freedom do not restrain the University from allocating teaching and scholarship resources in a manner consistent with its mission.

The University assumes no responsibility for the extramural statements of faculty members. When appropriate, faculty members will make it clear that their statements are personal and are not sponsored or approved by the faculty or by Northeastern University.

1 Approved by the Faculty Senate on 10 April 2013 by a vote of 32-0-1; Approved by the Board of Trustees on 7 June 2013