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4 **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

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6 **A. Introduction**

7 The San Bernardino Community College District is committed to the principle that the free
8 expression of ideas is essential to the education of its students and to the effective
9 governance of its colleges. The District recognizes that academic and intellectual
10 freedom is best protected by a system of tenure, academic due process, and policies and
11 procedures that provide faculty, students and classified employees the opportunity to
12 freely express themselves in any campus venue, from the classroom to the board room.
13 The District further subscribes to the principle that the free expression of ideas should be
14 limited only by the responsibility to express ideas with fairness, and in a manner that
15 respects the differing ideas of others and distinguishes between established fact and
16 theories and one's own opinion.

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18 **B. Rights of Academic Employees**

19 Academic Freedom shall be guaranteed to all academic employees. No special
20 limitations shall be placed upon study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of
21 facts and ideas concerning human society, the physical and biological world, and other
22 branches of learning, subject to accepted standards of professional responsibility. The
23 right to academic freedom herein established shall include the right to support or oppose
24 political causes, issues, and parties outside of normal classroom activities.

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26 Academic employees are citizens, members of learned professions, and members of the
27 institution. When academic employees speak or write as citizens, they should be free
28 from institutional censorship or discipline, provided they clearly indicate they are not
29 representing the institution.

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31 Academic freedom allows academic employees to seek and present the truth as they
32 know it on problems and issues, subject to the accepted standards of professional
33 responsibility, without fear of interference from administrators, the District Board of
34 Trustees, governmental authorities, or pressure groups.

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36 Although academic employees have the obligation to ensure that their classroom material
37 meets the valid educational objectives of the course as stated in the approved Course
38 Outline of Record, they are entitled to freedom in the classroom in presenting the
39 subjects they teach and shall be free to select and use textbooks and materials that they
40 deem appropriate to meet the stated learning outcomes for the course.

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42 Academic employees are entitled to full freedom in their use of books, online sources and
43 Internet sites and in the publication of the results of any research that may result from the
44 use of these resources.

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46 Academic employees may arrange for classroom lecturers or speakers to make
47 presentations in regularly scheduled classes or groups of classes. The academic
48 employees shall be responsible for the relevance of the lecturer or speaker's subject
49 matter to the course.

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51 **C. Obligations of Academic Employees**

52 Academic freedom requires that all academic employees establish and preserve an open
53 learning environment at the college. No special limitations shall be placed upon students
54 in their study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts and ideas concerning
55 human society, the physical and biological world, and other branches of learning, subject
56 to accepted standards of academic responsibility. Students shall have the opportunity to

57 study controversial issues and divergent views and to arrive at their won conclusions.
58 Academic employees have an obligation to protect the student's right to freedom of
59 inquiry even when the student's conclusions differ from those of the academic
60 employees.

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62 While student may represent without penalty any opinion in or out of class, they may be
63 required to demonstrate knowledge of views contrary to their own in order to fulfill course
64 requirements.

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66 **D. Libraries and Learning Resource Centers**

67 Books and other library and learning resources materials selected and databases
68 provided should be chosen for values of interest, information and enlightenment of all the
69 people of the community. In no case should library materials be excluded because of the
70 race, nationality, social, political, or religious views of the authors. Libraries should
71 provide materials and information presenting diverse points of view on current and
72 historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or
73 doctrinal disapproval.

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106 Reference:
107 WASC/ACJCC Standard Two

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109 Approved: July, 2001