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4 **ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

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6 **A. Introduction**

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

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19 **B. Rights of Academic Employees**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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53 **C. Obligations of Academic Employees**

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55 Academic freedom requires that all academic employees establish and preserve an open
56 learning environment at the college. No special limitations shall be placed upon students in

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their study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts and ideas concerning human society, the physical and biological world, and other branches of learning, subject to accepted standards of academic responsibility. Students shall have the opportunity to study controversial issues and divergent views and to arrive at their own conclusions. Academic employees have an obligation to protect the student's right to freedom of inquiry even when the student's conclusions differ from those of the academic employees.

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

D. Libraries and Learning Resource Centers

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

Reference:
Title 5, Section 51023;
Accreditation Standard II.A.7.

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