2520 – Academic Freedom

The College strongly supports the following statement of academic freedom:

1. The faculty, in collaboration with the administration, holds the major responsibility for matters of curriculum.

2. The College acknowledges that faculty members shall have academic freedom consistent with the AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom, which follows:

- "Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition."

- "Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. It carries with it duties correlative to rights."

- "Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution."

- "Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment."

- "College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution."

3. The College acknowledges both faculty and student rights to the maintenance of a classroom environment conducive to learning. The College acknowledges that the legitimate due process rights of students must be preserved along with the faculty right to have proper protection of the classroom environment from disruptive student conduct or activities that are deleterious to the learning process.

(Based on policy 1520; revised and approved by President on 11/16/07)