

RESOURCES RELATED TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM

UPDATES TO BOARD OF REGENTS POLICIES

3.10

B. "Faculty may teach controversial subjects when they are relevant to course content. Instruction should be presented in a manner that fosters critical thinking and avoids indoctrination of one perspective. Faculty are expected to uphold academic integrity, encourage open and respectful inquiry, and present coursework in a way that reflects the range of scholarly views and ongoing debate in the field."

G. "The universities shall adopt policies and procedures to ensure all coursework meets these expectations. The Board shall, at least every two years, direct the Board office to audit the institutional policies, procedures and compliance with these standards."

3.20

f. "Courses should provide opportunities for students to openly examine and discuss the concepts, ideas, and materials addressed in the class. Students' grades must reflect their mastery of course content and skills, not their agreement or disagreement with particular viewpoints expressed during instruction or in their work."

UI POLICY MANUAL – CH. 15 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS & ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

15.2 Responsibilities to Students:

c. "... They must not intentionally interject into classes material or personal views that have no pedagogical relationship to the subject matter of the course."

d. "... On controversial issues within the scope of the course a reasonable range of opinion should be presented. When faculty members present their own views on such issues, they should always be identified as such. ..."

e. "The faculty member owes to the student and the university a fair and impartial evaluation of the student's work. Such evaluation should be consistent with recognized standards and must not be influenced by irrelevancies such as religion, race, sex, or political views, or be based on the student's agreement with the teacher's opinion pertaining to matters of controversy within the discipline."

f. "... Restraints must not be imposed upon the student's search for consideration of a diverse or contrary opinion ... The classroom must remain a place where free and open discussion of all content and issues relevant to a course can take place ..."

I. "At the beginning of each course, students should be informed of departmental and collegiate complaint procedures and services of the Office of the University Ombudsperson. When complaints emerge, they should be initiated at the faculty or departmental level first. If a complaint cannot be resolved at the departmental and/or collegiate level, students may file a formal complaint utilizing the procedure specified in III-29.6 Tenure-Track Ethics and Conduct Violation. Additional information regarding Student Complaints Concerning Actions of Faculty Members may be found on the Dean of Students website at <https://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/student-complaints-concerning-faculty-action/>."

RELATED CENTER FOR TEACHING RESOURCES

Developing Course Goals & Objectives

Handbook Ch. 14: Transparent Assignment Design

Handbook Ch. 28: Grading Fairly

Handbook Ch. 29: Handling Grade Complaints

Handbook Ch. 17: Community Guidelines for Classroom Interaction

Handbook Ch. 35: Difficult Conversations in the Classroom

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Office of the Provost:

- Expression of political views in the classroom and in other instructional contexts

Office of the General Counsel:

- Free Speech and Political Activity

Dean of Students

- Student Complaints Concerning Faculty Actions