

CCC Board of Education – Topic Summary	
Topic:	Policy IBB: Academic Freedom revised to Academic Freedom and Responsibility with content reflecting this revision.
Date:	February 8, 2017
Presenter:	Joanne Truesdell, President
Division/Department:	Executive Offices
RECOMMENDATION:	Adopt Board Policy IBB: Academic Freedom and Responsibility

REASON FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:

Changes to this policy were recommended by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

EXPECTED OUTCOME/RELEVANCE TO STRATEGIC PRIORITY OR CORE THEME:

Clarification of this policy supports the college mission:

To serve the people of the college district with high quality education and training opportunities that are accessible to all students, adaptable to changing needs, and accountable to the community we serve.

BACKGROUND:

NWCCU visited CCC in spring of 2016 for the Year Seven accreditation report. After the visit, NWCCU provided commendations and recommendations for CCC. One of the recommendations was to expand and clarify the Board policy on academic freedom and responsibility.

While CCC has an existing Board policy (IBB: Academic Freedom), the Commission felt it was too broad and did not mention the responsibility aspect of academic freedom per NWCCU Accreditation Standard 2.A.27.

“2.A.27– Not met; needs improvement. Board Policy IBB provides a one-sentence statement on academic freedom as follows: “As a public institution, the College does not promote any particular political or religious point of view, but rather encourages exploration of many points of view.” While the faculty contract contains additional information related to academic freedom, the Board Policy does not meet the standard regarding academic freedom and responsibility that protects the institution’s constituencies from inappropriate internal and external influences, pressures, and harassment.”

A task force of CCC administrators and faculty developed a draft policy, which was presented to the Board for a first read on January 26. The policy has been revised based on feedback from the Board, Presidents’ Council, College Council, and Faculty Senate and is now presented for approval.

Purpose of the Proposed Revisions

The purpose of this policy is to promote public understanding and support of academic freedom and professional responsibility to and of the students, community, and College staff.

Clackamas Community College is operated for the common good and not to further the interest of either individuals working at the College 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 is applied to teaching and other College-related activities. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the instructor in teaching and of the student in learning. It carries with it duties correlative with rights.

BUDGET IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDS:

There is no budget impact associated with adoption of this policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy IBB: Academic Freedom and Responsibility