
BOARD POLICY ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Approval Authority	Board of Governors
Primary Contact	President
Related Policies / Legislation	Board policy direction Values and Ethics (BPD-201) <i>University Act, s. 27</i>

POLICY

As a member of Universities Canada, UFV adheres to that body’s “Statement on Academic Freedom” (<http://www.univcan.ca/media-room/media-releases/statement-on-academic-freedom/>). As noted there, “Academic freedom is fundamental to the mandate of universities to pursue truth, educate students and disseminate knowledge and understanding.”

The university is committed to the belief that the exchange of knowledge and ideas in an environment of intellectual freedom is an indispensable foundation of quality education. Academic freedom is one means to ensure that an environment of intellectual freedom is sustained. Academic freedom includes the right to inquire, discuss, speak and express oneself, study, conduct research, teach, publish, associate, create and exhibit one’s work without hindrance or restriction by the university or any of its representatives.

Notwithstanding the above, academic freedom does not entitle anyone to promote hatred or contempt for any social, national, or ethnic group; display incompetence in teaching or scholarship; or violate the human rights of others.

Where academic freedom is invoked in defence of a particular practice, an evaluation of the practice shall follow the process outlined in the FSA Collective Agreement.

Senate will publish a process for managing academic freedom cases.
