

ARTICLE 16: ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL FREEDOM

16.1 Academic Freedom

It is the policy of the District that all instruction shall be fair, accurate, objective, and appropriate to the age and maturity of the student(s) and sensitive to the community needs and values of our diverse cultures and heritages. Academic freedom is essential to the fulfillment of this policy and the District acknowledges the fundamental need to protect unit members from censorship or restraint which might interfere with the unit member's obligation to pursue truth in performance of their teaching functions. Accordingly:

16.1.1 A unit member shall have reasonable freedom in the classroom presentations and discussions, and may introduce political, religious or otherwise controversial materials, provided that said material is relevant to the course content, within the scope of the law, and other points of view are presented; and,

16.1.2 in performing teaching functions, unit members shall have reasonable freedom to express various points of view on all matters relevant to the course content, in an objective manner. A unit member, however, shall not utilize his/her position to indoctrinate students with his/her own personal, political and/or religious views.

16.2 Personal Freedom

16.2.1 The personal life of a unit member is not an appropriate concern of the District for purposes of evaluation or disciplinary action unless it prevents the unit member from performing his/her assigned duties.

16.2.2 A unit member shall be entitled full rights of citizenship, and no religious or political activities, or lack thereof, of any unit member shall be used for purposes of evaluation or disciplinary action unless said activities violate local, state or federal law.