

# BOARD POLICY

WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Series Number 603.9

Title Curriculum

Academic Freedom - Teaching Controversial Issues

The Board believes students should have an opportunity to reach their own decisions and beliefs about conflicting points of view. Academic freedom is the opportunity for instructors and students to study, investigate, present, interpret, and discuss facts and ideas relevant to the subject matter, including opposing viewpoints.

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor to refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or biased positions in the classrooms and laboratories, or through teaching methods/materials. Instructors are not discouraged from expressing a personal opinion as long as students are aware it is a personal opinion and students are allowed to reach their own conclusions independently.

It shall be the responsibility of the President to insure that appropriate guidelines and standards are developed, implemented, and maintained, which encourage the exercise, but discourage the abuse, of academic freedom in the teaching/learning experience.

Date of adoption 1/18/88

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa)

Date of last revision \_\_\_\_\_

260C.14

Date of current revision 1/8/96

Related Administrative Procedures and Cross References \_\_\_\_\_