Academic Freedom

Policy Statement

Eastern Kentucky University endorses the American Association of University Professors’ statement concerning academic freedom, which states, in part,

The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom discussing his subject, but he should be careful not to introduce into his teaching controversial matter which has no relation to his subject. Limitation of academic freedom because of religion or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment.

The university teacher is a citizen a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he speaks or writes as a citizen, he should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a man of learning and an educational officer, he should remember that the public may judge his profession and his institution by his utterances. Hence he should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinion of others and should make every effort to indicate that he is not an institutional spokesman. (“1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure,” American Association of University Professors Policy Documents and Reports, [Washington, D.C., 1984] 3. Because the “Statement of Principles” has been endorsed by one hundred organizations, AAUP has not revised the statement to conform to contemporary standards of sex-fair language)

Entities Affected by the Policy

- Colleges
- Departments
- Faculty

Interpreting Authority

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

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This policy has not yet been reviewed under Policy 1.1.1. For purposes of cataloging, it has been placed in an abbreviated form of the policy template. It remains an official university policy and will eventually be reviewed under Policy 1.1.1.
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AAUP 1940 Statement on Academic Freedom

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President Martin stated that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requires that each member institution have an officially adopted statement on academic freedom. He stated that in keeping with this standard, he was recommending the following statement which was approved unanimously by the faculty in general meeting on Monday, July 29, 1963:

"(a) The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

"(b) The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his subject, but he should be careful not to introduce into his teaching controversial matter which has no relation to this subject. Limitation of academic freedom because of religion or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment.

"(c) The college teacher is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he speaks or writes as a citizen, he should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a man of learning and an educational officer, he should remember that the public may judge his profession and his institution by his utterances. Hence he should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinion of others and should make every effort to indicate that he is not an institutional spokesman."

It was moved by Mr. Wilson Palmer that the Statement on Academic Freedom as approved by the faculty and recommended by the President be approved by the Board of Regents. The motion was seconded by Dr. Russell I. Todd and approved by the Board unanimously.
The faculty and administrative staff of Eastern Kentucky State College met in the Edwards Auditorium on December 9, 1963. The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 4:13 p.m. The minutes of the November 11, 1963 meeting were approved as submitted. Motion by Dr. Park, seconded by Professor Stephens.

The President stated that the policy on academic freedom as submitted by the faculty and approved by the Board of Regents is as follows:

"(a) The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

(b) The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his subject, but he should be careful not to introduce into his teaching controversial matter which has no relation to this subject. Limitation of academic freedom because of religion or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment.

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The President stated that the policy set forth at Eastern Kentucky State College is that basically after five years and after assuming the rank of assistant professor you are granted tenure. The policy is as follows:

"It is the policy of this Board to grant tenure to its professional employees above the rank of instructor after a probationary period of five years of satisfactory service. And, although we may not contract legally with our staff for a period of more than four years, we shall not regard the termination of the contract as the termination of one's service to the institution unless during the contract one has lost his usefulness to the institution. No president, professor, associate professor or assistant professor may be discharged after the probationary period of five years before he has had opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel before the Board of Regents. In accordance with the laws of the State, the reasons for dismissal include incompetency, neglect of or refusal to perform assigned duties, or immoral conduct." The President went on to note that there is no tenure granted at the instructor level.

The President stated that both of the above policies would be included in a forthcoming faculty manual for the use of the faculty. The manual should be ready for distribution shortly after the Christmas holidays. The President then noted that the manual was to be considered as tentative and that the faculty should carefully examine the material to be found in said manual and be prepared to react and make suggestions toward the betterment of this instrument.

The President then recognized Dean Orr who gave the following progress report on
FACULTY MEETING

July 29, 1963

The faculty and administrative staff of Eastern Kentucky State College met in the Little Theater on July 29, 1963. The meeting was called to order by President Martin at 3:30 p.m.

The minutes of June 17, 1963 were approved as submitted. Motion by Dr. Black, seconded by Dr. Grise.

THE PRESIDENT

1. Recognized Dr. Kennamer who presented to the faculty the candidates for degrees August 1, 1963. A list of candidates is set forth in Appendix A. Dr. Kennamer moved and Mr. Gatwood seconded that the candidates be recommended to the Board of Regents for graduation. The faculty approved the list of candidates as recommended.

2. The President recognized Dean Coates who submitted to the faculty the following statements on academic freedom:

(a) "The teacher is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of his other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution."

(b) "The teacher is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing his subject, but he should be careful not to introduce into his teaching controversial matter which has no relation to this subject. Limitation of academic freedom because of religion or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of appointment."

(c) "The college teacher is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an officer of an educational institution. When he speaks or writes as a citizen, he should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but his special position in the community imposes special obligations. As a man of learning and an educational officer, he should remember that the public may judge his profession and his institution by his utterances. Hence he should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraints, should show respect for the opinion of others and should make every effort to indicate that he is not an institutional spokesman."

J. D. Coates, Chairman
P. M. Grise
Thomas C. Henderson
Clyde J. Lewis
John D. Rowlett
Motion by Dr. Park, seconded by Mr. Whalin that the report of the committee assigned to submit a statement on academic freedom be approved.

In the discussion on the motion the President stated that the report of the committee on academic freedom is the usual statement as recommended by the American Association of University Professors; he further stated that this institution has also notified the Southern Association that it subscribes to the statement.

The statement as submitted was approved by the faculty.

3. The President notified the faculty that all but two professional vacancies are filled for the school year 1963-64. He stated that these forty-five or forty-six instructors in his opinion, based on their training and other abilities, will be very attractive assets to our campus. The President informed the faculty that they represented a diversity of universities and colleges. He requested help from the faculty in getting the new members oriented to the campus.

4. The President stated that the Dean of Admissions had informed him that as of this date he was retaining his original estimate of four thousand five hundred students for the fall semester.

5. The President made the following announcements:

a. Commencement will be at 7:30 p.m. August 1 in the Amphitheater

b. On August 1:

At 3:30 p.m. a portrait of former President O'Donnell will be unveiled in the Student Union Building.

At 4:00 p.m. cornerstone will be laid at Todd and Dupree Halls.

At 4:30 p.m. a cornerstone will be laid at Combs Hall.

At 5:00 p.m. the annual fish fry will be held.

At 7:00 p.m. the academic procession will form.

c. The faculty will re-convene September 13, 1963.

DEAN AMBROSE:

Informed the faculty that only eleven of a possible one thousand and sixty-nine grades were late or erroneous and thanked the faculty on behalf of the Registrar's Office for their promptness and consideration.

Meeting adjourned 3:50 p.m.