

**Title of Policy: Academic Freedom**

**Policy (check one):** New \_\_\_\_\_ Revised   x  

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

**Faculty**   X      **Staff** \_\_\_\_\_    **Students** \_\_\_\_\_

**Division/Department** \_\_\_\_\_    **College** \_\_\_\_\_

**Policy Purpose:**

The Board of Trustees of BCCC is strongly committed to the concept of academic freedom as essential to the success of the college.

**Policy Statement:**

It is the policy of Baltimore City Community College to encourage freedom of inquiry and the free exchange of ideas in the classroom. While academic freedom allows faculty members considerable autonomy in the classroom, BCCC is also committed to maintaining a respectful environment for all. Toward that end, the faculty is responsible for upholding norms of civil discourse, standards of scholarly integrity, and aspirations of truth and justice.

Faculty , in written or oral statements made outside the scope of employment at BCCC, may not claim to represent Baltimore City Community College without clear authorization to do so. Further, academic freedom does not relieve faculty members of any contractual agreements such as teaching toward essential objectives or for a specified amount of contact time.

The academic freedom of faculty members is accompanied by equally compelling obligations and responsibilities to the profession, students, college, and community. Faculty members are afforded the rights of academic freedom while willingly accepting the responsibilities that follow.

Faculty members:

- should be judicious in the introduction of material in the classroom without forfeiting the instructional benefits of controversy.
- should not attempt to force a personal viewpoint on students.
- should recognize their responsibility to maintain competence in their disciplines; and
- should always make clear that the views they express are their own and should avoid creating the impression they speak or act on behalf of the college.

**Implementation Date:**    May 19, 1993; March 14, 2024.

**Originator/Division:** Academic Affairs

**Approved by the Board of Trustees:**

May 19, 1993; March 14, 2024.

\*This policy once approved by the Board of Trustees supersedes all other policies.