



ACAP
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Agenda Item 6

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Executive Director

Statement on Academic Freedom

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) supports in both principle and practice, the criterion identified by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC), as it pertains to academic freedom and applies to all postsecondary institutions in South Carolina:

The institution ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom. (Criterion 3.7.4)

Further, the Commission endorses the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in its *Statement of Principle on Academic Freedom and Tenure*.*

Academic Freedom

1. Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.
2. Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment.
3. College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

The Commission is committed to supporting these standards, which serve as the basis for discussion on any issue related to the preservation of academic freedom, tenure and due process.

* American Association of University Professors, adopted 1940, and endorsed by more than 200 scholarly and educational associations.