



## **TED UNIVERSITY POLICY OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM JULY 2012**

### **Purpose and Scope**

Academic freedom is an integral part of the University environment. The purpose of TED University Policy of Academic Freedom is to put forth the principles of academic freedom that are indispensable to a university whose members can express themselves freely, while protecting and respecting the rights of others to learn, to do research, and to carry out the essential functions of the University free from interference or obstruction.

Higher education institutions exist for the common good. The common good requires an admission of the individual's basic rights in society, including but not limited to an unobstructed search for truth and its open expression. Therefore, it is quintessential that faculty members are entitled to the maintaining of academic freedom, in other words, the right to freedom of teaching and discussion, freedom in conducting research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof, and freedom to participate in professional or representative academic bodies. Although faculty members observe the regulations of the University, they maintain the right to criticize and seek revision.

Faculty members are also individuals that are part of a community; thus, when writing, speaking, or acting outside the classroom, they must be free from University censorship or discipline. On such occasions of public interest the faculty members should make it clear that they are not speaking for the University.

Exercise of academic freedom carries with it the duty and obligation to respect the academic freedom of other members of the academic community and to safeguard the impartial discussion of opposing views. Teaching, research and scholarship should be conducted in full accordance with ethical and professional standards.

This policy applies to faculty members who have official teaching, research, or support responsibilities at the University.

### **As Individuals**

Faculty members are members of the society and scholarly professions and representatives of this University. Faculty members, like all other groups and individuals, should enjoy internationally recognized civil, political, social and cultural rights applicable to all individuals. They shall not be obstructed in exercising their civil rights as individuals in the society, including the right to contribute to social change through freely expressing their opinion of state policies and of policies affecting higher education.

When the faculty members speak, write, or act outside the classroom, they shall be free from institutional censorship or discipline, however, the distinct position in the community held by the

faculty members imposes special obligations. As people of learning and educators, the faculty members are expected to recall that the public may judge their profession and this University by their utterances. Hence, the faculty members agree at all times to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinions of others, and to make every effort to indicate that they are not institutional spokespersons for the University.

### **As Related to the University**

Cooperation among personnel is one of the prerequisites of an efficiently operating institution. The faculty members should agree, therefore, to abide by the regulations of the University, however, should be free to discuss governance issues of their respective departments, colleges, units, libraries, and of the University as a whole, and should be free to speak and write on all matters related to their professional duties without institutional discipline or restraint. Faculty members should exercise professional responsibility in their service roles. Faculty members have an obligation to respect confidentiality and the privacy rights of others.

### **In Research and Publications**

Faculty members have a right to carry out research of their own undertaking without any interference, or any suppression, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties and nationally and internationally recognized professional principles of intellectual rigor, scientific inquiry, and research ethics. They should also have the right to publish and communicate the conclusions of the research of which they are authors or co-authors. Faculty members have a right to undertake professional activities outside of their employment, particularly those that enhance their professional skills or allow for the application of knowledge to the problems of the community, provided such activities do not interfere with their primary commitments to this University and the policies of the institution.

### **In Instructional Roles**

Faculty members have the right to teach without any interference, subject to accepted professional principles including professional responsibility and intellectual rigor. In this context, professional responsibility is avoiding infringing upon students' right to learn by introducing irrelevant subject matter and intellectual rigor is allowing no suspicion of double standard. Faculty members are invited to teach, conduct research and set educational policy in their sphere of knowledge and are expected to abide by the institutional curricula and objectives. Faculty members should not be forced to instruct against their own best knowledge and conscience and should play a significant role in determining the curriculum. Faculty members should foster academic honesty, the free pursuit of learning, and the exercise of academic freedom in students.