



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC 20319-5066

MEMORANDUM TO NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND STUDENTS

SUBJECT: (U) NDU Academic Freedom Policy

15 December 2021

1. References

a. DoDD 5230.09: Clearance of DoD Information for Public Release, August 22, 2008, Certified Current Through August 22, 2015 [Incorporating Change 1, Effective March 16, 2016], available at <https://www.hsdll.org/?view&did=791413>

b. 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments, Association of American University Professors Policy Documents and Reports, 1995. Available at: <https://www.aaup.org/report/1940-statement-principles-academic-freedom-and-tenure>

c. Middle States Commission on Higher Education, Philadelphia, PA, Standards, Standard II - Ethics and Integrity, available at <https://www.msche.org/standards/>

d. National Defense University Non-Attribution Policy (30 September 2020), available at <https://ndu-libguides-com.nduezproxy.idm.oclc.org/c.php?g=968179&p=7000387>

1. Academic freedom is a cornerstone of NDU's core values and principles to promote the right of students and faculty to express their ideas and challenge the ideas of others without fear of retribution. While aspects of academic freedom are protected by the First Amendment, the principle pre-dates the Constitution. It is a right afforded to faculty members as a group for freedom in teaching, research, scholarship, internal criticism, and debate. It further serves as the basis for faculty input in institutional governance and derives from shared professional expertise and training.

2. The National Defense University subscribes to the American Association of University Professors' statement on academic freedom, issued in 1940. That statement defines academic freedom in terms of:

- * Freedom of research and publication of results
- * Freedom of classroom teaching
- * Freedom from censorship when faculty speak or write as citizens

The statement also includes faculty responsibilities in academic freedom:

- * Faculty, when acting as private citizens, should make every effort to indicate that they are not institutional spokespersons.
- * Avoid controversial issues not relevant to the subject being discussed.
- * Peer review is vital and encouraged.

* Institutional missions could limit academic freedom. For example, faculty should not discuss classified or sensitive material in inappropriate settings or with those who do not have a “need to know.”

3. Free inquiry is essential to the National Defense University because the senior officers and government officials educated here will assume a variety of roles in their future assignments, as future policymakers, advisors, and leaders. NDU graduates must be ready to discuss, challenge, question, and determine national policy.

4. So that guests and university community members may speak candidly, the university offers its assurance that presentations will be held in strict confidence. Our policy on non-attribution provides that, without the expressed permission of the speaker, nothing will be attributed directly or indirectly in the presence of anyone who was not authorized to attend the class or lecture.

5. Action. All NDU affiliated colleges, institutions, agencies, and activities will adhere to this policy and incorporate the overarching philosophy within respective policies and actions, with special emphasis on professionalism in the online environment. The reproduction of this policy is authorized.

6. NDU proponent: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, (202) 685-0080



Cynthia Watson, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
National Defense University