


Senate Recommendation December 15, 2022 meeting

FACULTY SENATE RECOMMENDATION TO THE PROVOST The Faculty Senate  
Recommends approval of the Proposal to Amend WKU Faculty Handbook: Substantive Change  
11-2022 Amending II.C Academic Freedom as per the motion of the Faculty Senate

 Digitally signed by Antonia  
Szymanski  
Date: 2023.03.08 11:56:22  
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 3/25/2023

## Proposal to Amend WKU Faculty Handbook

*Editorial revisions include updates to the organizational structure, web addresses and names/titles, as well as other similar non-substantive changes.*

Section(s) to be amended: II.C.

Corresponding page number(s): 11

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Date Submitted: November 28, 2022

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### 1. Type of Change:

Editorial (non-substantive)

Substantive

*Editorial revisions include updates to the organizational structure, web addresses and names/titles, as well as other similar non-substantive changes.*

Addition: Where possible, identify the section of the handbook to which addition is proposed:

Deletion: Identify the section of the handbook from which deletion is proposed:

Revision: Identify the section of the handbook to which revision is proposed:

II.C.

2. Proposals should be made in the form of text intended as an addition to or a replacement of, in whole or in part, some current section of the Faculty Handbook.

### Current:

**II.C. Academic Freedom:** The University subscribes to the following principles: (1) faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their disciplines and in selecting teaching aids and library materials; (2) faculty members are entitled in their areas of specialization to freedom in research and investigation and in the publication of results; and (3) faculty members are entitled to freedom in participating as responsible citizens in community affairs.

Academic freedom is the freedom to teach, both in and outside the classroom, to research and to publish the results of those investigations, and to address any matter of institutional policy or action whether or not as a member of an agency of institutional governance. Professors should also have the freedom to speak to any matter of social, political, economic, or other interest to the larger community, subject to the academic standard of conduct set forth in paragraph D below.

The above statement is not to be interpreted as protective of an incompetent or negligent faculty member, nor does it prevent the University from evaluating the work of each faculty member according to the published criteria and guidelines of the University and college.

### Revision/Addition:

**II.C. Academic Freedom:** The University subscribes to the following principles: (1) faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their disciplines and in selecting teaching aids and library materials; (2) faculty members are entitled in their areas of specialization to freedom in research and investigation and in the

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**Rationale for amendment:**

Revisions necessary to remove ambiguities in reference to institutional governance and to maintain consistency in reference to “faculty members.”