



Academic Freedom

Academic Freedom Policy

Approved by and date:

Board of Trustees

06/19/2017

Executive Leadership Team

05/04/2017

Policy:

The Kilgore College Board of Trustees recognizes that while individual faculty members have the freedom to discuss, research, and publish academic material that may be controversial or unpopular (academic freedom), faculty members must focus their classroom time on those activities which address the specified learning outcomes of each individual course.

Procedures:

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In the 2016 spring semester, the Faculty Senate voted to endorse the American Council on Education's Statement on Academic Rights and Responsibilities. (<http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/Statement-on-Academic-Rights-and-Responsibilities-2005.pdf>).

State and institutional requirements also govern course content and delivery as follows:

- a. Texas regulations dictate what courses may be offered at public community colleges.
- b. The Academic Course Guide Manual and the Workforce Education Course Manual specify the student learning outcomes (SLOs) which must be addressed in individual courses. Additionally, the Texas core curriculum identifies the common objectives of the general education curriculum.
- c. Kilgore College faculty committees have identified the activities and assessments which address applicable SLOs. Faculty committees also determine many common textbooks and resources that faculty within individual departments are expected to use in addressing SLOs.
- d. Furthermore, the Kilgore College educational community expects that instructors will use pedagogy which actively engages students in the pursuit of learning.

If faculty members think that anyone has infringed upon their right of academic freedom, they should first try to resolve the issue informally with the parties involved. If they are not able to resolve the issue, they may submit a formal complaint to the vice president of instruction. The VPI will form an ad hoc committee consisting of one faculty member from each of the four instructional divisions and the VPI to consider the merits of the complaint. The recommendation of the majority of the faculty members will guide the resolution of the complaint. In the case of a tie among the faculty members, the VPI will make the final decision. In a case in which the faculty complaint is against the VPI, the president of the college will convene the committee to address the complaint.