The College recognizes the necessity for freedom in legitimate academic decisions that foster an environment where faculty and students can freely inquire, study, and evaluate in order to gain greater understanding. To that end, the College endeavors to give faculty members the freedom to conduct individual academic affairs in accordance with each person's best judgment.

The College bases its commitment to the principle of academic freedom as defined and described by the 1940 Statement of the Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure (American Association of University Professors):

A. Faculty members will conduct themselves within the boundaries of the law as established by the North Carolina General Statutes and the State Board Code of Community Colleges.

B. Faculty members shall use their best judgment as to appropriate material in developing and implementing course material. Faculty members shall refrain from introducing materials and subject matters that have no bearing or academic relationship to that particular class or subject matter. Faculty members shall encourage students to do likewise.

C. In the academic setting, faculty members shall refrain from insisting upon the adoption of any particular point of view as authoritative. Engaging in personal attacks during any discussion should be avoided by faculty members and students. Interactions in the academic setting shall be subject to Policy 5.3.2 - Student Code of Conduct.

D. Faculty members shall organize their subject matter and present it in ways that present the optimum value for their students, subject to reasonable guidelines reflected in College, departmental, and faculty policies and procedures.

Any questions or issues concerning the parameters of academic freedom at this College should be addressed to the Chief Academic Officer. In the event the faculty member cannot reach an informal resolution, they may file a grievance pursuant to Policy 3.3.8. – Grievance.

This Policy is not intended to limit the rights of faculty or students in discussing any matter outside of the academic setting. However, no College employee or student shall purport to speak on behalf of the College unless specifically authorized to do so by the President.

REFERENCES

Statutory References	None
Regulatory References	None
Relevant Guidance	None
Policy Manual Cross-References	Referencing: ● Policy 3.3.8 - Grievance ● Policy 5.3.2 - Student Code of Conduct

POLICY HISTORY

January 1, 2025	Adopted.