

ALISHER NAVO'I TASHKENT STATE UNIVERSITY OF UZBEK LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

Preamble

TSUULL recognizes the critical importance of academic freedom as a foundational principle in higher education. We are committed to fostering a vibrant and intellectually stimulating academic environment where the pursuit of knowledge, research, teaching, and free expression thrive. This Academic Freedom Policy outlines our unwavering commitment to upholding and protecting academic freedom for all members of our academic community.

1. Definition of Academic Freedom

1.1 Freedom of Inquiry and Research

Academic freedom encompasses the right of faculty, researchers, and scholars to explore, investigate, and research subjects of their choosing without interference or censorship. This includes the freedom to formulate research questions, design methodologies, and draw conclusions based on evidence.

1.2 Freedom to Teach and Discuss

Faculty members have the autonomy to select course content, teaching methods, and pedagogical approaches that best serve the educational objectives of their courses. They are encouraged to engage students in critical thinking, encourage diverse viewpoints, and create an inclusive learning environment.

1.3 Freedom to Express Opinions

Members of the academic community, including faculty, researchers, and students, have the right to express their views, opinions, and beliefs freely, both within and outside the university context, without fear of reprisal or censorship. This extends to participation in public discourse and civic engagement.

1.4 Freedom to Publish and Disseminate Research Findings

Faculty and researchers have the freedom to publish their research findings in peer-reviewed journals, books, and other scholarly outlets. The university supports their efforts to disseminate knowledge to the broader academic and public communities.

2. Scope of Academic Freedom

2.1 Application to All Members

Academic freedom applies to all members of the academic community, including faculty, researchers, students, and staff. It is a shared responsibility and a cornerstone of our institution's values.

2.2 Inclusive Approach

Academic freedom is inclusive and encompasses all academic disciplines and fields of study, irrespective of ideology, methodology, or subject matter.

3. Responsibilities and Duties

3.1 Responsible Exercise of Academic Freedom

Faculty and researchers are expected to exercise their academic freedom responsibly and with integrity. This includes adhering to ethical research practices, maintaining professional standards, and respecting the rights and viewpoints of others.

3.2 Obligation to Promote Academic Freedom

The university community has a collective responsibility to promote academic freedom and protect it from undue external pressures or threats.

4. Limitations and Restrictions

4.1 Ethical Guidelines

While academic freedom is a fundamental principle, it is not absolute. Faculty and researchers must adhere to ethical guidelines and research integrity standards in their work.

4.2 Compliance with Legal Requirements

Academic freedom should be exercised in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and contractual obligations.

4.3 Interference with University Functions

Academic freedom should not be used to interfere with the normal functions and operations of the university or disrupt the learning environment.

5. Protection of Academic Freedom

5.1 Non-Retaliation Clause

The university is committed to protecting individuals who exercise their academic freedom. Retaliation against anyone who engages in lawful and responsible expression or research activities will not be tolerated.

5.2 Grievance Mechanism

The university establishes a clear and transparent grievance mechanism for addressing violations of academic freedom and related disputes. This mechanism ensures due process and fair resolution.

6. Academic Governance and Autonomy

6.1 Role of Academic Governance Bodies

Academic governance bodies play a vital role in upholding and safeguarding academic freedom. These bodies have the authority to make decisions related to academic policies, curriculum, and faculty appointments.

6.2 Institutional Autonomy

The university maintains institutional autonomy, which is essential to preserving academic freedom and resisting external pressures that may compromise our commitment to free inquiry and expression.

6.2.1. Diverse Activities and Aspects of Academic Freedom at TSUULL Faculties

An academic freedom policy should encompass a wide range of activities and principles to protect and promote the intellectual and creative autonomy of faculty, researchers, and students within an academic institution. Here are various activities and aspects that can be included in an academic freedom policy:

Freedom of Teaching and Curriculum Development:

Faculty have the right to determine course content, teaching methods, and instructional materials in line with their expertise and pedagogical goals.

Freedom of Research and Scholarly Activities:

Faculty and researchers should be free to choose research topics, methodologies, and publication outlets without external interference or censorship.

Freedom of Expression:

Members of the academic community have the right to express their views, opinions, and beliefs openly within the bounds of respectful and lawful discourse.

Publishing and Dissemination:

Faculty and researchers should have the freedom to publish and disseminate their research findings without restrictions imposed by the institution.

Participation in Public Discourse:

Faculty, researchers, and students have the right to engage in public discourse, speak on matters of public interest, and contribute to civic dialogue.

Protection from Retaliation:

Individuals who exercise their academic freedom should be protected from retaliation, harassment, or discrimination based on their research, teaching, or expressions.

Inclusivity and Diversity:

Promote an inclusive and diverse academic environment where multiple perspectives and backgrounds are respected and valued.

Collaboration and Academic Freedom:

Encourage collaboration with other institutions and researchers while respecting the academic freedom of all parties involved.

Respect for Student Academic Freedom:

Recognize that students also have academic freedom rights, including the freedom to express opinions and explore ideas.

External Partnerships and Funding:

Ensure that external partnerships and funding sources do not compromise the institution's commitment to academic freedom.

Protection Against Political and Ideological Interference:

Safeguard against political or ideological interference in academic matters and decisions.

Ethical Research Practices:

Encourage adherence to ethical guidelines and research integrity standards in all research activities.

Peer Review and Quality Assurance:

Respect the role of peer review in evaluating research and maintain quality assurance mechanisms that protect academic freedom.

Freedom in Artistic and Creative Works:

Extend academic freedom to include artistic and creative works, allowing for the free expression of ideas and creativity.

Freedom in Classroom Discussions:

Promote open and constructive classroom discussions where students and faculty can explore challenging and controversial topics.

Faculty Hiring and Promotion:

Ensure that hiring and promotion decisions are based on academic qualifications and achievements rather than ideological or political considerations.

Intellectual Property Rights:

Clarify the ownership and rights related to intellectual property developed by faculty and researchers in the course of their academic work.

External Speakers and Events:

Encourage the hosting of a wide range of speakers and events that contribute to academic discourse, even if their views may be controversial.

Review and Revision:

Establish mechanisms for periodic review and revision of the academic freedom policy to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

Publications and Records:

Safeguard access to publications, records, and archives that are crucial for research and academic inquiry.

Including these activities and principles in an academic freedom policy ensures that the institution is dedicated to providing a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment where diverse perspectives can thrive while upholding the principles of academic freedom.

7. Conclusion

TSUULL reaffirms its commitment to academic freedom as an indispensable foundation of our academic community. This policy underscores our dedication to nurturing an environment where diverse perspectives, intellectual exploration, and the pursuit of knowledge thrive. We pledge to uphold these principles in perpetuity, ensuring that academic freedom remains a cornerstone of our institution's mission and values.

This comprehensive Academic Freedom Policy is designed to provide a clear and robust framework for the protection and promotion of academic freedom within the university, guiding the actions and expectations of all members of the academic community while reinforcing the institution's commitment to this fundamental principle.

