

Proposed Resolution on Preserving Academic Freedom

Faculty Senate Discussion 2-11-2025

WHEREAS: Academic freedom protects a community of scholars whose inquiries pursue truth and the advancement of knowledge;

WHEREAS: Education is a public good. Similar to broad arguments for freedom of speech, academic freedom promotes the common good through a dynamic process of debate and discussion in the pursuit of truth. External political interference in these activities threatens the discovery and dissemination of knowledge. In a well-functioning system where academic freedom is valued and protected, faculty exercise judgment governed by the professional norms of their disciplines both in research and in the classroom;

WHEREAS: Faculty utilize their training and experience to provide an ethical model for students of what it means to be a scholar. They demonstrate: excellence in judgment, methods to rigorously evaluate evidence, make responsible arguments, and communicate ideas. Academic freedom recognizes that faculty have a professional obligation to students to respect them as learners;

WHEREAS: Academic freedom protects the development, communication, and dissemination of knowledge; it prepares students for life-long learning and for participation in broader public deliberations;

WHEREAS: Outside political interference creates a chilling effect leading faculty to self-censor or avoid controversial topics, thus undermining a rigorous university education and the central mission of promoting the public benefits of truth discovery and knowledge creation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Toledo rejects efforts to legislate the content of curriculum in higher education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate rejects the encroachment of partisan political perspectives on the academic enterprise in higher education in the State of Ohio.