**Intellectual Freedom and Responsibility** (BP 4030 Academic Freedom)

Intellectual freedom is to be guarded as a basic right of all citizens in a free society. To this end,

the colleges of the district are committed to free discussion and open inquiry in the pursuit of

truth. It is recognized that freedom to think, to read, to speak and to question is necessary to the

development of an informed citizenry. This freedom shall be integral to the philosophy of this

district and is guaranteed to all staff and students.

For each faculty member, intellectual freedom is both a right and a responsibility. As a right, it

guarantees the instructor freedom to interpret personal findings and to communicate the

conclusions without being subjected to interference, molestation, or penalty because the

conclusions are at variance with those of other persons. As, a responsibility, it carries the

obligation to study, to investigate, to present, to discuss and to interpret fairly and objectively

facts and ideas related to the instructor's assignments and to avoid teaching material which has

no relation to the subject.

Since human knowledge is limited and changeable, the instructor will acknowledge the facts on

which controversial views are based and show respect for opinions held by others. While striving

to avoid bias, the instructor will cite the evidence available and present the conclusions to which

the instructor believes this evidence points without limiting the freedom of the student to express

and defend the students own views and beliefs. With the understanding that the student must also

respect the rights of others, the student shall have the freedom to question and differ without

jeopardy to the student's scholastic standing.

The college faculty member is a citizen, a member of a learned profession, and an employee of

an educational institution. As a person of learning and an educational employee, the faculty

member should remember that the public judges the profession and the institution by his/her

utterances. Hence, the faculty member should at all times be accurate, should show respect for

the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that he/she is not an institutional

spokesperson.

To insure these principles of intellectual freedom for this district's colleges, the administration

and the board, as the governing body of the district, will demonstrate their support by actively

working toward a climate which will foster this freedom. Such participation will extend to the

point of defending and supporting any tenured or non-tenured faculty member who, while

maintaining the high standards of the profession, finds personal freedom of expression unfairly

attacked or curtailed.

Freedom of Speech, Political Activities

The governing board recognizes the right of any employee of the district to take or refrain from

taking a stand on any political issue and to support or oppose any issue or candidate. In accordance with the

Education Code, such activities must be conducted on the employee's own

time. The employee will exercise reasonable care to show that he/she is acting in his/her capacity

as a private citizen. Nothing in this policy shall prevent:

1. The discussion and study of political, social, and moral issues when such discussion and study are

appropriate to the subject matter of a course.

2. The conducting of student and employee elections and campaigning connected therewith.