AP 4030 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

References:

Title 5 Section 51023;
Accreditation Standard II.A.7

In compliance with Title 5, Section 51023 and Board Policy 4030, procedures pursuant to Academic Freedom include but are not limited to the following rights and responsibilities:

Rights of Academic Employees

The West Valley-Mission Community College District is committed to maintaining the following rights of all faculty members:

a. Faculty members can engage in intellectual debate without fear of censorship or retaliation.

b. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in their use of books, online sources, internet sites, classroom speakers, and all formats of information dissemination. Publication of the results of any research that may result from the use of these resources is protected under academic freedom.

c. Faculty members have the right to study and do research on the topics they choose and to draw what conclusions they find consistent with their research.

d. As citizens, members of learned professions, and members of the institution, faculty members have the right to support or oppose political causes, issues, and parties outside of normal classroom activities and should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, provided they clearly indicate they are not representing the institution.

Academic Freedom and Responsibility

West Valley-Mission Community College District faculty members have these further and related responsibilities:

- To maintain themselves as experts in their fields of competency by study, research, and, where appropriate, publication.

- To diffuse knowledge and, if possible, to encourage creativity by their teaching.

- To defend their colleagues and their institution against any threats to academic freedom whether from within or without the West Valley-Mission Community College District.

Remedies deriving from perceived violations of the approved Academic Freedom policy may be pursued through the West Valley and Mission College Academic Senates, the WVMCCD Human Resources Department, and/or the grievance process through the faculty union, whichever is deemed most appropriate.

Date Approved: January 18, 2012
(Replaces current WVMCCD Policies 4.1.2 and 4.1.4)