

## Motion to revise section 2.1 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom in the Radford University Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook

### **Motion:**

The Faculty Senate recommends that section 2.1 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom in the Radford University Teaching and Research Faculty Handbook.

Current text:

### 2.0 FACULTY PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 2.1 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom

The following statement of principles of academic freedom applies to all Teaching and Research faculty at Radford University:

A vital role of a university is to examine ideologies and institutions in an intelligent and careful manner. Academic freedom is necessary to assure faculty members the right to pursue such investigation and to express their views without fear of censorship or penalty. Such freedom must apply both to teaching and research and includes not only the rights of a teacher in teaching but the student in learning. The University defines academic freedom as:

- The right of the scholar to full freedom to discuss his/her subject;
- The right to unrestricted scholarly research and publication within the limits imposed by the acknowledgment of teaching as a faculty member's primary obligation.

Replacement text:

#### 2.1 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom

The following statement of principles of academic freedom applies to all Teaching and Research Faculty at Radford University:

Academic Freedom is the freedom to teach, both in and outside of the classroom, to conduct research and to publish results of those investigations, and to address any matter of institutional policy or action whether or not as a member of institutional governance. Professors should also have the freedom to address the larger community with regard to any matter of social, political, economic, or other interest, without institutional discipline or restraint, save in response to fundamental violations of professional ethics or statements that suggest disciplinary incompetence.

### **Rationale:**

The current statement in the Radford University Faculty Handbook protects a faculty member's academic freedom in teaching and research but does not include participation in institutional governance and statements on matters of social, political, economic matters. Recent court cases, *Garcetti vs. Ceballos* in particular, threaten the academic freedom of faculty members, particularly those at state institutions. The attached article by Mary Heen from the November 2010 Virginia Conference of the AAUP Newsletter discusses the impact of the *Garcetti* case on

academic freedom. Additional information is available on the national AAUP website at:  
<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/comm/rep/A/postgarcettireport.htm>

The proposed change to the *Radford University Teaching and Research Faculty* extends the protection of academic freedom to discussions related to institutional governance and matters of public concern.