Instruction

## CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The Governing Board of the Southwestern Community College District has adopted the following statement of policy in order to ensure students a well-balanced preparation for American citizenship, and in order to protect instructors and Administrators from unwarranted attack.

- Free discussion of controversial issues is at the heart of the democratic process. Freedom of speech and free access to information are among our most cherished traditions. The College assumes the responsibility to make provision for this and to protect the students and the faculty from the resentment of those who might seek to oppose it.
- Faculty and students, within the classroom where appropriate to the subject involved, and outside the classroom, should have every opportunity to hear and express themselves on every side of every question, new and arresting, or established and traditional. They should be guaranteed an academic climate which stimulates and encourages them to exercise every prerogative and responsibility of the academic, civil and social liberties promised them by the republic in which they live without jeopardy to their position, and without institutional censorship, discipline or harassment.
- Each professional member of an educational institution has a special position in the community which imposes special obligations. As an educator, the instructor should remember that the public may judge the professional and the educational institution by his or her utterances. Hence, the instructor should at all times be accurate, show respect for the rights of others to hold opinions, and should make every effort to indicated that he or she is not an institutional spokesperson when expressing personal opinions off campus.
- In the study of controversial issues in the public colleges of this nation, the student has three rights to be recognized:
  - 1. The right to study any controversial issue which has political, economic or social significance.
  - 2. The right to form and express personal opinions on controversial issues without thereby jeopardizing relations with instructors or the College.

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3. The right to have free access to all relevant information, including materials that circulate freely in the community.

**Distribution of Literature on Campus** - The distribution of all literature\* on campus shall be subject to approval by the Vice President for Student Services and the following:

- 1. Materials approved for distribution may be distributed in accordance with the approval granted by the Vice President for Student Services. Distribution in the classroom is subject to approval by the individual instructor. Distribution in the Campus Bookstore is subject to approval of the Bookstore Manager.
- 2. The manner of and location for the distribution of material shall be determined by the Vice President for Student Services.
- 3. Material which is judged primarily obscene or lewd by community standards will not be distributed.
- 4. Any decision in regard to acceptability of literature for free distribution may be appealed by any member of the campus community to the Student/College Relations Committee.

It is the purpose of this policy to allow the free distribution of all literature which may enrich the educational process. Fund Drives not sponsored by the Associated Student Organization must be cleared by the Solicitation of Funds, Materials and Services Committee.

\* Distribution of literature is defined as free passing of printed material from one or more individuals to other individuals, or making free printed material available in a manner specified by the Vice President for Student Services.

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