



Maryland University of Integrative Health

Policy and Procedures

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Subject: Academic Freedom

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1. Purpose

In keeping with MUIH's statement of Institutional Values, and general standards of good practice in higher education, MUIH is committed to the principle of academic freedom and extends it to all faculty, instructional staff, and students engaged in a course, research, and scholarship at MUIH. Academic freedom is essential to free inquiry to adhere to the primary functions of a university which are to promote the common good, to discover knowledge, and to disseminate it to its students and to society at large. The University also wishes to foster a mature independence of mind in our students. Accordingly, the following protections and guarantees of academic freedom are set forth for the MUIH community. The purpose of this policy is to ensure academic freedom including intellectual freedom and freedom of expression for faculty, instructional staff, and students engaged in a course, research, and scholarship at MUIH.

2. Policy

2.1 General Policies

Faculty, instructional staff, and students are entitled to academic freedom in the classroom, in research, and in the publication of the results; to speak and discuss their ideas and interpretations of issues, ideas and texts; and to put into writing their views and thoughts without fear of censorship or reprisal.

It is important that all faculty within the University community, and students who are scholars in progress, treat with dignity all honestly held opinions and all cogent, articulated arguments.

All members of the community should respect this freedom and accept the responsibility for ensuring that all teaching, research, and writing relates to the subject of the course and program within which they are conducted. Likewise, faculty should refrain from introducing controversial and other materials that are unrelated to the subject in which they are teaching. Controversial material within the subject

matter of a course is supported as it reinforces the importance of critical thinking for both faculty and students.

MUIH recognizes that all of the members of its community are also members of a wider world community and that speaking and writing roles outside of their MUIH roles are to be respected and remain free of any form of institutional censorship or discipline.

All faculty, instructional staff, and students should always remember that they may be seen to represent MUIH in whatever venues they may be and should therefore always maintain an awareness of the need for accuracy, respect for others, and balance in speaking that may be seen as related to their relationship to the University. When appropriate, MUIH faculty, instructional staff, and students speaking or writing outside of their roles and responsibilities at MUIH may wish to note that they are not speaking or writing for the University. Contributions to social media should be in alignment with Policy 1045 Social Media Policy.

2.2 Research Policies

Faculty members are free to engage in research and in the publication of the results.

Research conducted for the University shall be approved and conducted in accordance with MUIH's Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies and guidelines and Policy 6095 Research Involving Human Subjects. This includes guidelines as established either in an MOU or in an agreement between the University and the partnering organization. Research for a pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the Provost and the President.

3. Procedures

Individuals who are considering conducting research should review Policy 6095 Research Involving Human Subjects and the policies and procedures associated with the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Individuals who are considering contributing to social media should be in alignment with Policy 1045 Social Media Policy.

Faculty, instructional staff, and students who believe their right to academic freedom has been infringed upon should file a concern or complaint with the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at provost@muih.edu.

Individuals who believe that a faculty member, instructional staff member, or student has gone beyond the bounds of Policy 6090 Academic Freedom should file a concern or complain with the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at provost@muih.edu.

4. Approval and Revision

Approved on February 23, 2022, by Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Christina Sax.

Note: This policy replaces the former "Academic Freedom" Standards and Practices, which was first authorized on October 2, 2003, and last reviewed in March 2016.

February 2022 Updates: 1) Converted the Standards & Practice to the Policy template form. 2) Clarified language based on Faculty Senate feedback. 3) Added a reference to associated Policy 1045: Social Media. 4) Added a reference to associated Policy 6095 Research Involving Human Subjects. 5) Added procedures for individuals who believe their academic freedom has been infringed upon. 6) Added procedures for individuals who believe someone else has gone beyond the bounds of the policy.