

## President's Statement on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

UNLV is governed by the NSHE Board of Regents's policy on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (NSHE Code, Title 2, Chapter 2<sup>1</sup>), which is guided by the AAUP's classic 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*.<sup>2</sup> The NSHE policy covers freedom in research, freedom to publish, and freedom in the classroom. It also discusses faculty members as citizens and the special obligations and responsibilities of faculty members as "person[s] of learning and [as] employee[s] of an educational institution." That policy states that "a faculty member should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others and should indicate clearly that the faculty member is not an institutional spokesperson."

I believe wholeheartedly in the pursuit of knowledge and in the ability of research and creative activity to begin or continue a conversation in the pursuit of that knowledge. Because of my belief, I will neither censor nor permit others in my administration to censor the results of the pursuit of knowledge. That being said, the administration also enjoys academic freedom and the protection of freedom of speech. An administrator's reasonable critique of research or creative activity is not tantamount to censorship or discipline. Of course, a faculty member has recourse if he or she believes that such a critique is unreasonable.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Handbook/T2-CH02%20-%20Academic%20Freedom%20and%20Responsibility.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/1940statement.htm](http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/1940statement.htm).