

Office of the

## Executive Vice President and Provost

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## Academic Freedom, Responsibility, Integrity, and Cooperation

Academic freedom, responsibility, integrity, and cooperation are among the guiding principles for the mission of the University of Minnesota ([Board of Regents Mission Statement](#), last amended Feb. 2008)

### Mission of the UMN: Guiding Principles

In all of its activities, the University strives to sustain an open exchange of ideas in an environment that:

- embodies the values of academic freedom, responsibility, integrity, and cooperation;
- provides an atmosphere of mutual respect, free from racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice and intolerance;

- assists individuals, institutions, and communities in responding to a continuously changing world;
- is conscious of and responsive to the needs of the many communities it is committed to serving;
- creates and supports partnerships within the University, with other educational systems and institutions, and with communities to achieve common goals; and

The Board of Regents Policy: [Academic Freedom and Responsibility](#) defines academic freedom as "the freedom, without institutional discipline or restraint, to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression, and to speak or write on matters of public concern as well as on matters related to professional duties and the functioning of the University." It further states that academic responsibility "implies the faithful performance of professional duties and obligations, the recognition of the demands of the scholarly enterprise, and the candor to make it clear that when one is speaking on matters of public interest, one is not speaking for the institution."

The University's [Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#), prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court case *Garcetti v. Ceballos* and local controversy over the showing of the film *Troubled Waters*, released a [White Paper](#) in December 2011, which clarifies the nature and scope of academic freedom and responsibility at the University. In particular, it notes that the protections defined by the Regents policy "extend to all University employees who engage in scholarly work."

Interested parties may find the policy statements and reports of the [American Association of University Professors](#) informative, particularly the 1940 [Statement on Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#).

### **Official policies and codes of conduct that affirm and address academic freedom and free speech protections and responsibilities at the University:**

- [Regents Policy on Academic Freedom](#)
- [Administrative policy on Distribution of Information through Publications, Banners or Chalking](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)

Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

Fostering the academic excellence of the educational and research missions of the University and providing leadership for undergraduate, graduate, and professional education.

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