

## Article 5

### Academic Freedom and Responsibility

5.1 The University of South Florida affirms the principles of academic freedom and responsibility, which are rooted in a conception of the University as a community of scholars united in the pursuit of truth and wisdom in an atmosphere of tolerance and freedom.

5.2 Academic Freedom is the freedom of an employee to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, to establish criteria in order to evaluate, determine and assign grades and other performance indicators and outcomes subject to an established university appeals process, to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression, to speak freely on all matters of university governance, and to speak, write, or act as an individual, all without institutional discipline or restraint.

5.3 On the part of an employee, Academic Responsibility implies the honest performance of academic duties and obligations, the commitment to support the responsible exercise of freedom by others, and the candor to make it clear that the individual, while he or she may be freely identified as an employee of the University, he/she is not speaking as a representative of the University in matters of public interest.

5.4 On the part of the Administration, Academic Responsibility implies a commitment actively to foster within the University a climate favorable to responsible exercise of freedom, by adherence to principles of shared governance, which require that in the development of academic policies and processes, the professional judgments of employees are of primary importance.