

Year-End Report, 2020-2021

Academic Freedom Committee

Members: Professor Clock (Acting Chair); Professor Glaser (Medical Leave); Professor Chaparro; Professor Conte; Professor Seyem.

The work of the Academic Freedom Committee during 2020-2021 was important and spanned several topics. We began the year by reviewing the possibility of working on updating the College Governance plan; however, that is something that is in the purview of the Academic Senate as a whole. Therefore, our focus shifted to some developing questions about Academic Freedom.

Our Committee was instrumental, with the assistance of Dean Zummo, in achieving changes for how the Connect2Success early alert system contacts students. Professors now have the option to customize their emails within the system, instead of having emails generated automatically as if signed by professors themselves. This was very important because part of academic freedom does entail how professors communicate with their students. We are grateful for Dean Zummo's assistance, and our Committee extends its gratitude to her for her helpfulness on this issue.

Another area of concern arrived in February when the College contacted professors to inquire about their choices of "F" grades for specific students. The Committee was concerned about the questions. However, Registrar Mohammad Alam was able to clearly explain to our Committee that the College would face audits, and potential loss of revenue, if students are incorrectly assigned grades of "F" instead of "WU," when warranted. We appreciate the time that Registrar Alam took to address the Committee's questions, and we thank him for his assistance.

Finally, Professor Chaparro is a member of the UFS Academic Freedom Committee, and, with his guidance, the BMCC Academic Freedom Committee can center its future work around the guiding principles determined at the UFS.

Going forward, the Academic Freedom Committee will be focused on the UFS' committee's determinations, as well as always being guided by AAUP principles.

Respectfully submitted,

*Professor Clock, 5/8/21.*