

Appendix G: Statement on Professional Ethics

Adopted by Foothill College Academic Senate, Spring 1988

The Statement on Professional Ethics was adopted by the Council of the American Association of University Professors in April 1966 and endorsed by the 52nd annual meeting as association policy.

- I. Faculty members, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their subjects is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end, they devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Although they may follow subsidiary interests, those interests must never seriously hamper or compromise their freedom of inquiry.
- II. As teachers, faculty members encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly standards of their discipline. They demonstrate respect for the student as an individual, and adhere to their proper role as intellectual guides and counselors. They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that evaluation of students reflects their true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between faculty member and student. They avoid any exploitation of students for private advantage and acknowledge significant assistance from them. They protect the academic freedom of students.
- III. As colleagues, faculty members have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. They respect and defend the free inquiry of their associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, they show due respect for the opinions of others. They acknowledge their academic debts and strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. They accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.
- IV. As members of their institutions, faculty members seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although they observe the stated regulations of their institutions, provided the regulations do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain their right to criticize and seek revision. They determine the amount and character of the work they do outside their institution with due regard to their paramount responsibilities within it. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, they recognize the effect of their decisions upon the program of the institution and give due notice of their intentions.
- V. As members of their community, faculty members have the rights and obligations of all citizens. They measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of their responsibilities to their subject areas, to their students, to their profession, and to their institutions. When they speak or act as private persons, they avoid creating the impression that they speak or act for their colleges or universities. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, faculty members have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.

(The text of the AAUP statement has been modified to reflect today's concern for non-sexist language).