

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE *FACULTY CODE* WITH RESPECT TO
ACADEMIC FREEDOM (14/2)**

WHEREAS, Article II. of the *Faculty Code*, entitled “ACADEMIC FREEDOM,” currently provides:

- A. A faculty member shall enjoy freedom of investigation subject only to legal restrictions and such guidelines as shall be recommended by the Faculty Senate and adopted by the University.**
- B. A faculty member shall enjoy freedom of expression. In the classroom, a faculty member's exposition shall be guided by requirements of effective teaching, adherence to scholarly standards, and encouragement of freedom of inquiry among students. In speaking and writing outside the University, a faculty member shall not attribute his or her personal views to the University.**

WHEREAS, the mission statement of The George Washington University (GW) declares that GW “commits itself to excellence in the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge,” and that GW “provides a stimulating intellectual environment for its diverse students and faculty” by “fostering excellence in teaching” and by serving as “a center for intellectual inquiry and research”; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees recognizes and affirms the value of GW’s long tradition of shared governance based on constructive dialogue and collaboration between the Faculty and the Administration; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has approved a strategic plan for the period leading to 2021, which seeks to make GW one of the world’s premier research universities; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has formed a Task Force on Faculty Governance, which has reviewed the *Faculty Code* and faculty governance documents of GW’s market basket institutions and seeks to clarify GW’s governance processes; and,

WHEREAS, teaching in the 21st Century will involve an extension and adaptation of the traditional classroom mode of instruction for a wide variety of media and remote locations; and,

WHEREAS, maintaining a civil and collegial academic environment in the context of wide-ranging research and teaching activities occurring within GW’s multidisciplinary structure will be of paramount importance for GW’s ability to achieve recognition as a premier research university; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

That Article II. of the *Faculty Code* be amended to read as follows:

“Subject only to legal restrictions and such guidelines as shall be recommended by the Faculty Senate and adopted by the University:

“A. A faculty member shall enjoy freedom of expression. In the classroom (physical, virtual, and wherever located), a faculty member's ~~exposition~~ shall be guided by requirements of effective teaching, adherence to scholarly standards, and encouragement of freedom of inquiry among students. In speaking and writing outside the University, a faculty member shall not attribute his or her personal views to the University.

“B. A faculty member shall enjoy freedom of investigation.

~~“C. By virtue of their membership in the academic community, faculty members (as well as students, administrators, and trustees) have an obligation, consistent with academic freedom, to act with civility, to acknowledge the right of others to express differing opinions, and to foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and free expression of ideas on and off the campus.”~~

“C. Consistent with academic freedom, faculty members should show respect for the opinions of others and foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and the free expression of ideas.”

Faculty Senate Committee on Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom

April 8, 2014

Adopted as amended, May 9, 2014