**DRAFT**

**CSUSM’S POLICY ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY**

California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) is committed to promoting and protecting principles of academic freedom and responsibility for all members of its faculty, students, and staff in both curricular and co-curricular activities. The principles of academic freedom guarantee freedom of inquiry, research and creative activity, freedom of teaching, and freedom of expression. Academic freedom is essential for the University to pursue its fundamental mission of academic excellence. This policy acknowledges the importance of preserving the role of faculty in shared governance and jointdecision-making, where it collectively exercises academic freedom and recognizes that with academic freedom comes responsibility.

Consistent with the 2005 CSU Academic Senate Resolution on Academic Freedom, CSUSM also seeks

to foster in its students a mature independence of mind, and this purpose cannot be achieved unless students and faculty are free within the classroom to express the widest range of viewpoints within the standards of scholarly inquiry and professional ethics.

Although we cannot control the interpretations of others, we must always remember why we are here: to enlighten, nurture, and educate. It is our responsibility to try to provide an environment that fosters civil discourse, mutual respect, open inquiry, and freedom of expression. Academic freedom does not include the use of discriminatory, discourteous, or abusive conduct or language towards others while in performance of their duties, nor language or conduct that is unlawful.

This policy endorses the general principles of academic freedom outlined in the *1940 AAUP Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure* (including notes from the *1970 Interpretive Comments* and the 2009 clarifying statement on academic freedom). The principles of academic freedom require their application to teaching and learning, research and membership in an academic community:

1. Faculty are entitled to freedom in presenting material related to the content of the course as determined by the intellectual standards of relevant academic disciplines.
2. Research and creative activity cannot fulfill its fundamental purpose of advancing knowledge unless it is done in an environment supportive of academic freedom. All those engaged in research/creative activity are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of results within applicable legal requirements, and the recognized standards of their profession.
3. CSUSM members have the right to speak and write as citizens in any forum, free from institutional censorship or discipline. However, they should remember that their profession and their institution may be judged by their statements. For this reason, they should indicate that they are not speaking for the institution and at all times make every effort to be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, and show respect for the opinions of others.

Consistent with the 2005 American Council on Education’s Statement on Academic Rights and Responsibilities, CSUSM also asserts that

The validity of academic ideas, theories, arguments and views should be measured against the intellectual standards of relevant academic and professional disciplines. Application of these intellectual standards does not mean that all ideas have equal merit. The responsibility to judge the merit of competing academic ideas rests with colleges and universities and is determined by reference to the standards of the academic profession.

Faculty concerned with issues of academic freedom are encouraged to consult as appropriate the department chair, the Dean’s office, the Office of University Ombuds (if they wish to have a confidential communication), or the CFA chapter faculty rights representative. When claiming a violation of academic freedom, faculty have the right to pursue redress via available institutional means, which may include, but is not limited to, the grievance procedures set forth in the CBA.

Students concerned with issues of academic freedom are encouraged to consult as appropriate the Dean of Students, the department chair, the Dean’s office, their ASI representative, or the Office of University Ombuds (if they wish to have a confidential communication). When claiming a violation of academic freedom, students have the right to pursue redress via available institutional means, including, but not limited to, the Student Grievance Policy, and/or the Student Course Grade Appeals Policy.

Staff concerned with issues of academic freedom are encouraged to consult as appropriate their supervisor, the Office of University Ombuds (if they wish to have a confidential communication), or their union representative. When claiming a violation of academic freedom, staff have the right to pursue redress via available institutional means, including, but not limited to, grievance procedures set forth in their union contracts.

Academic freedom must not be trivialized nor equated with other important and constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of expression. The CSUSM campus community shares the responsibility to maintain, encourage, promote, and protect academic freedom, ensuring that it is not compromised by censorship, fear of reprisal, institutional discipline, or outside interference. It is the joint duty of the Administration and the Academic Senate to actively sustain and defend academic freedom in the domains of teaching, research, service, and all aspects of institutional academic matters and shared governance. In this manner, CSUSM will be able to fulfill its educational mission in the service of its students, the residents of California, and the common good.