

2.D - Core Component 2.D

The institution is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.

Argument

Wayne State University is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.

WSUCA [Statute 2.42.01](#) (Academic Freedom) affirms the university's stewardship of common good and the free search for truth and its free exposition. Concepts conveyed in this statute:

- Academic freedom applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning.
- The teacher is entitled to freedom in research and publication of results, with duties correlative to rights.
- The teacher is entitled to freedom in classroom, with duties correlative to rights.
- As speaking or writing as a citizen, the teacher should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, although the teacher should make every effort to indicate that s/he is not an institutional spokesperson.

Among student rights affirmed by WSUCA [Statute 2.31.01](#) (Student Rights and Responsibilities):

- The right to free inquiry and scholarly investigation, and the right to discuss, exchange, and publish any findings or recommendations, either individually or in association with others, provided s/he makes no claim to represent the university without due authorization.
- The right to organize, join, and participate in recognized campus organizations, subject to the university rules governing such organizations.
- The right to a voice in democratic student government within the university and its several schools, colleges, and divisions. Likewise, each student has the right to advocate any policy or change in existing policy in all matters affecting students.
- The right to be secure in his/her rights as a citizen without prejudice, provided s/he makes no claim to represent the university without due authorization.

The institution's commitment to these principles is reinforced by public responses by President M. Roy Wilson to controversial national events in 2017 ([executive order on travel restrictions](#)), 2016 ([presidential election results](#)), and in 2014 ([call for boycott of Israeli academic institutions](#)). These leadership statements affirm WSU's support of people's constitutional rights to free speech, while acknowledging duties correlative to rights.

The University Library System safeguards the principles of intellectual freedom every day, and through special events. For example, to complement the [intellectual freedom research guide](#), the library hosts [Banned Books Week](#) – an annual, educational celebration of the right to read.

Free exchange of ideas occurs through student government organizations, the student newspaper, WSU's National Public Radio station, and speakers representing diverse viewpoints who are invited to campus by academic units and student organizations. As an example, the WSU research portfolio includes [protocols using laboratory animals](#), and the institution defends faculty members who are targeted by animal rights activists. Yet in the midst of a national protest about WSU canine research, the university in September 2014 [hosted a prominent animal rights activist](#) as an on-campus speaker – an action that modeled respect for differing viewpoints. Similarly, the Law School offers a [course on Animal Law](#) and sponsors the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, which advances the interests of animals through the legal system.

These principles are a frequent catalyst for intellectual exchange in university centers and institutes such as the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

Disputes related to academic rights and responsibilities are resolved according to procedures documented in collective bargaining agreements, the Bulletin, and the Student Code of Conduct. (Sections 2.A. and 3.C.)

Sources

- Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk visits WSU - The South End - 2014_09_18
- Course Information - LEX 7023 - Animal Law
- Message from President M. Roy Wilson - 2014_01_03
- Message from President M. Roy Wilson - 2016_11_11
- Message from President M. Roy Wilson - 2017_01_30
- WSU Libraries - Banned Books Week Posters - 2016
- WSU Libraries - Intellectual Freedom Research Guide Webpage
- WSU Statement - Animal Research
- WSUCA Statute 2.31.01 - Student Rights and Responsibilities
- WSUCA Statute 2.42.01 - Academic Freedom