

## Intellectual Pluralism

The general principles of academic freedom, with both the associated rights and responsibilities, are acknowledged in section in 310.010.A of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this section, it states that institutions of higher education “are established and maintained for the common good, which depends upon the free search for truth and its free expression.” These academic rights to free search and expression also come with responsibilities. Also in section 310.010.A.2, it states that:

1. Faculty members are entitled to freedom in research and in the publication of the results (qualified insofar as necessary in the case of sponsored research), subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties.
2. Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subjects, but have the responsibility not to depart significantly from their respective areas of competence or to divert substantial time to material extraneous to the course.
3. College or university faculty members are citizens, members of an educational institution, and members of learned professions. When they speak or write as citizens, they are to be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. They should anticipate that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances and actions. Hence, they should at all times be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, show respect for the opinions of others, and make every effort to indicate that they do not speak for the institution. (*underline added*)

The responsibilities associated with academic freedom are further articulated in section 330.080.1 (Positive Work and Learning Environment), “University of Missouri is committed to providing a positive work and learning environment where all individuals are treated fairly and with respect, regardless of their status. Intimidation and harassment have no place in a university community.”

The proper expression of both academic rights and responsibilities is at the core of Intellectual Pluralism. Several faculty will discuss how their academic units ensure the inclusion of a variety viewpoints and perspectives both in the design of the overall curriculum and in the presentation and discussion of topics in the classroom. As further background for the discussion, attached are the “Statement of Academic Rights and Responsibilities” issued by the American Council of Education, and relevant excerpts from student handbooks on the campuses.