

## 6.4

### Academic Freedom

The institution publishes and implements appropriate policies and procedures for preserving and protecting academic freedom.

### Judgment

Compliant  Non-Compliant  Not Applicable

### Narrative

#### Columbia Campus

The University of South Carolina Columbia is committed to promoting and protecting academic freedom for faculty and students as an essential element of the higher education experience. To this end, the University of South Carolina ensures the protection and promotion of academic freedom through written policies and faculty governance procedures. The university adheres in principle to the American Association of University Professors' "[Statement of Academic Freedom](#)".

The privilege of academic freedom is protected through the grievance process and extends beyond those with tenure. The [Office of the University Ombudsman](#) was established to serve as a neutral and confidential resource for faculty concerns and conflicts and the [Faculty Civility Advocate](#) mediates conflicts between faculty. All faculty regardless of tenure status are guaranteed protection in their pursuit of [excellence in research, teaching, and service](#), outlined in the Faculty Manual.

The responsible use of academic freedom enhances the contributions of the faculty and students to society, and must respect the dignity and rights of others. In October 1990, [The Carolinian Creed](#) was submitted for approval and endorsement to the University of South Carolina National Advisory Board, the Board of Trustees, the Student Senate, and the Faculty Senate and became an official University document. A bronze tablet containing the text of the Creed was cast and placed on the Horseshoe. Copies of [The Carolinian Creed](#) are mailed to incoming freshman, given to incoming faculty and framed copies hang in many campus buildings and offices.

The text of the Creed has been added to many University publications and the faculty have endorsed the inclusion of the Carolinian Creed by incorporating it in the body of the [Faculty Manual](#). The faculty added several paragraphs that address the faculty's responsibilities and expected behavior and specifically states that the faculty of the University of South Carolina "affirm our commitment to academic freedom even as we pledge ourselves to civil and responsible discourse" as teachers, colleagues, researchers and scholars.

The University of South Carolina Columbia recognizes that the principles of academic freedom are vital in protecting faculty in the pursuit, creation, and dissemination of knowledge and extends this privilege to students. The statement of student rights and freedoms ([STAF 6.28 Academic Freedom](#)) was passed by the Student Senate, the Faculty, and approved by the Board of Trustees of the University. Students are encouraged to learn in an environment that encourages free inquiry and free expression, while respecting the rights of others.

Faculty members who believe that their academic freedom rights have been curtailed have the right to grieve as stated in the Faculty Manual. [Grievance procedures are clearly outlined in the University of South Carolina Columbia Faculty Manual](#) for non-reappointment, denial of tenure or promotion, termination of tenure for cause, and other causes including violations of academic freedom.

#### Regional Palmetto College Campuses

The four regional campuses of the University of South Carolina (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union) fall under the authority of the Columbia campus and reside in a central administrative unit known as Palmetto College, headed by a Chancellor and Associate Provost. These campuses are referred to as regional Palmetto College campuses. The campuses exist as part of the University of South Carolina system as denoted in [Board of Trustees Bylaws](#) (p.2). The administrative unit also houses the academic unit of the University of South Carolina Palmetto College Columbia, which offers courses on the Columbia campus and in the metropolitan Columbia area as well as AA/AS programs and courses at Ft. Jackson. This unit also provides instruction, guidance and support for the delivery of the University's undergraduate online degree completion programs.

The regional Palmetto College campuses make clear commitment to academic freedom both in the [body of their Faculty Manual](#) and also in a [dedicated appendix of their Faculty Manual](#). Palmetto Faculty members are entitled to full academic freedom in research and teaching. If a faculty member thinks that their academic freedom has been violated, they may [appeal to the President for resolution](#); the President may send the request to an appropriate committee. Grievance

procedures are fully outlined in the [Palmetto College Faculty Manual](#), as is the existence of a standing [Grievance Committee](#).

Each regional Palmetto College campus adheres to and publishes the Carolinian Creed in their respective Bulletins, and/or Student Handbooks. Student Rights and Freedoms, which "... enumerate the essential provisions for student freedom to learn" are also published in campus bulletins and/or handbooks.

*Regional Palmetto College Campuses*



















[Lancaster | Student Handbook](#)

[Salkehatchie | Student Life](#)

[Sumter | Student Handbook](#)

[Union | Student Life](#)

## Sources

-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws](#)
-  [Faculty Civility Advocate](#)
-  [Faculty Ombudsman](#)
-  [Faculty\\_Manual\\_Columbia](#)
-  [Faculty\\_Manual\\_Columbia \(Page 11\)](#)
-  [Faculty\\_Manual\\_Columbia \(Page 45\)](#)
-  [Faculty\\_Manual\\_Palmetto\\_College](#)
-  [Faculty\\_Manual\\_Palmetto\\_College \(Page 10\)](#)
-  [Faculty\\_Manual\\_Palmetto\\_College \(Page 106\)](#)
-  [Faculty\\_Manual\\_Palmetto\\_College \(Page 55\)](#)
-  [Faculty\\_Manual\\_Palmetto\\_College \(Page 73\)](#)
-  [Lancaster Handbook 19-20](#)
-  [STAF 6.28 Academic Freedom for Students](#)
-  [Statement of Academic Freedom](#)
-  [Sumter Student Handbook AY18-19](#)
-  [The Carolinian Creed](#)
-  [USC Salkehatchie Student Life](#)
-  [USC Union Student Life](#)