

POLICY 5271

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

POLICY

The freedoms to read what one chooses, to teach without fear of intimidation or coercion, to access information without restrictions, and the freedom from unwarranted invasions of privacy are the vital signs of a healthy democracy. Shoreline Community College pledges to honor and preserve these freedoms for all faculty, students and staff.

Reviewed and recommended by:
College Council. 01/17/06
Approved by:
Board of Trustees 01/25/06

The Board of Trustees hereby approves Policy 5271.

Done in Open Meeting by the Board this 25 day of January, 2006.

Board of Trustees

Shoreline Community College

By: _____
Chair of the Board

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

1. Freedom to Read and View

The college library will provide books, instructional materials and online information services selected or viewed for their values of interest, research, education and enlightenment of students and faculty. In no case will any book, newspaper, journal, film, musical composition, art work or electronic information source be excluded because of controversial content. The library will offer unfettered access to materials that present the widest possible range of views and ideas. These materials will not be proscribed or removed from shelves or filtered from electronic information sources because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval. Efforts to censor library materials will not be tolerated. (See Library/Media Services' "Review of Library/Media Center Material" policy.)

2. Academic Freedom

In a free society, teachers must be free from intimidation or coercion. No restrictions shall be placed on Shoreline faculty and their disciplines to teach what they deem to be educationally important. Selection of course texts, learning materials, classroom environments and teaching methods will be the sole responsibility of the faculty and their academic programs. This principle reflects the general position of the Shoreline Community College Federation of Teachers in its contract language regarding academic freedom, subject only to such limitations as the contract itself provides (See SCCFT Faculty Contract, Article VI).

Likewise, students' rights to free expression will at all times be protected and respected. As an academic community, the college will dedicate itself to the advancement of knowledge by encouraging a multiplicity of views and ideas.

3. Access to Information

Shoreline students and faculty will have unrestricted access to all library resources, including print and electronic media. Open and unfiltered access to internet content will be guaranteed as an essential obligation of an academic library to make available a broad array of information and ideas.

In addition, Shoreline students, staff and faculty will have unrestricted access to information in all formats in public areas of campus, such as the library and student union building. Otherwise, access to information is governed according to existing campus policy. (See Faculty and Staff Acceptable use Policy for Information Technology Resources: Policy 4126; WAC 292-110-010, Use of State Resources)

4. Privacy Rights

Shoreline Community College pledges to guard against unwarranted invasions of privacy and to strictly adhere to all campus policies regarding privacy rights of student and college employee records, online access to information, and personal information. (See

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Policy 5040: Student Records; Policy 4126: Faculty and Staff Acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology Resources; Policy 4160: Personnel Records and Folders.)

Regarding library patron records, privacy protection extends to community members as well. In “Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries,” the American Library Association spells out its position clearly: “The privacy of library users is and must be inviolable. Policies should be in place that maintains confidentiality of library borrowing records and of other information relating to personal use of library information and services.” The Shoreline Community College library likewise will respect and protect the privacy of all its users. (See Library/Media Services’ “Privacy of Records” Policy, and RCW 42.17.310(L).)

Bibliography

The following sources were consulted and/or cited in this policy:

- “Academic Freedom.” Shoreline Community College Faculty Contract, Article VI. July 2004
- “Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks.” 19 Jan 2005. American Library Association. April 5, 2005
<<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=interpretations&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=90836>>
- “Credo for Free and Responsible Communication in a Democratic Society.” Annandale, VA: Speech Communication Association, n.d.
- “Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries.” 12 July 2000. American Library Association. April 5, 2005.
<<http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=interpretations&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=76535>>
- “Library Bill of Rights.” 23 January 1996. American Library Association. April 5, 2005.
<<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.htm>>
- Policy 4126: Faculty and Staff Acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology Resources. Shoreline Community College
- Policy 4160: Personnel Records and Folders. Shoreline Community College.
- Policy 5040: Student Records. Shoreline Community College,
- “Privacy of Records Policy.” Shoreline Community College Library/Media Services, April 2004.

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

“Public Records: Certain Personal and Other Records Exempt.” Revised Code of Washington. 42.17.310.

“Review of Library/Media Center Material.” Shoreline Community College Library/Media Services, May 2000.

Washington Administrative Code 292-110-010, Use of State Resources

Approved by:
President’s Leadership Team 10/17/05
Reviewed and recommended by:
College Council.01/17/06