

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
ACADEMIC PERSONNEL POLICY COMMITTEE
Concerning
A PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR THE FACULTY

Presented at the
319th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

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INTRODUCTION

1. In February 1980 the Committee on the Status of Women passed, and forwarded to the Rules Committee, a proposed addition to the Code of Professional Ethics for the Faculty. (The present Code is contained in the Appendix of this document.)
2. The Rules Committee referred this proposal to the Academic Personnel Policy Committee, originator of the current Code. The Academic Personnel Policy Committee recommended slightly different language, which the Rules Committee referred back to the Committee on the Status of Women. The Committee on the Status of Women recommended still slightly different language, which the Rules Committee once again referred to the Academic Personnel Policy Committee.
3. The Academic Personnel Policy Committee recommends to the Senate the proposed addition below, which corresponds to the second proposal from the Committee on the Status of Women.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR THE FACULTY

VI. As members of the faculty, professors respect the rights of others, regardless of sex; race; age; physical and language handicap; prior civil disability; sexual and religious preference; marital and socio-economic status; or national origin, citizenship, and allegiance. Professors avoid such extraneous considerations in the evaluation of peers, students, or in the assignment of duties and responsibilities in the University. Professors promote the ideals of a learning environment that fosters individual rights and encourages mutual respect.

MOTION:

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate recommend the approval of the addition to the Code of
64-80 Professional Ethics for the Faculty contained in Senate Document No. 80-064.

APPENDIX

A CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS FOR THE FACULTY

Adopted by the Faculty Senate, February 9, 1978

I. Professors, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their subject is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end they devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Although they may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise their freedom of inquiry.

II. As teachers, professors encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly standards of the discipline. They demonstrate respect for the student as an individual, and adhere to their proper role as intellectual guide and counselor. They also avoid any personal exploitation of students, staff, colleagues and others and will not abuse their positions as members of the academic profession. They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that the evaluation of students reflects their true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. They avoid any exploitation of students, staff, colleagues and others for their private professional advantage and acknowledge significant assistance from them. They protect their academic freedom.

III. As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. They respect and defend the free inquiry of their associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas they show due respect for the opinions of others. They acknowledge academic debts and strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. They accept a share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.

IV. As a member of their institution, professors seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although they observe the stated regulations of their institution, provided they do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain their right to criticize and seek revision. They determine the amount and character of the work done outside the institution with due regard to their paramount responsibilities within it. When considering the interruption or termination of service, they recognize the effect of the decision upon the program of the institution and give due notice of their intentions.

V. As a member of the community, professors have the rights and obligations of any citizen. They measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of responsibilities to their subject, to their students, to their profession, and to their institution. When they speak or act as a private person they avoid creating the impression that they speak or act for their college or university. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, professors have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.