

## SCCD Faculty Statement on Academic Freedom

The faculty of Sequoias Community College District (SCCD, or “the District”) have the right to academic freedom in higher education. Faculty members in SCCD are defined as all faculty—full-time, tenured, probationary, temporary, part-time, and emergency hired; faculty members includes, but is not limited to, instructors, librarians, counselors, coaches, and any other group ascribed the title of certificated faculty within the District.

The District and faculty agree that academic freedom is an essential component in the fulfillment of the educational mission of this District. It is the goal of both faculty and the SCCD to promote mutual respect and understanding, and ensure that both faculty and students can express views, conduct work, and seek truth within an inclusive culture of honesty and integrity. Understanding this, faculty of SCCD claim the right of academic freedom to:

- Study, investigate, and present diverse and controversial material, issues, and knowledge associated with their field
- Choose diverse and controversial materials, methods, approaches, content, and technology for their assigned curriculum or field
- Professionally engage with students, within and outside the classroom, regarding matter deemed necessary for promoting student success
- Explore any and all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression, and publish the results of such work
- Express, with and among students, faculty, staff, and administrators, differences of opinion about academic matters, college plans or policies, and administrative decisions, without fear of retaliation
- Critique and advocate for changes to institutional policies or decisions, without fear of retaliation
- Assess and grade student work and progress without interference, outside influence, or retaliation
- Assess, revise, update, and experiment with their current practices and pedagogy to foster innovative approaches to student success, without interference, outside influence, or retaliation
- Engage in discourse as a private citizen without fear of institutional discipline, when the faculty is not acting or speaking for the College as a whole

The faculty of SCCD agree to and affirm this statement on the principles of academic freedom. The faculty of the SCCD direct further attention to Administrative Procedure (AP) and Board Policy (BP) 4030 (“Academic Freedom”) for considerations not covered within this statement. So long as a faculty member is following the law, the Course Outline of Record for their assigned course, their respective employment contracts, and the BPs and APs of the SCCD, a faculty member of this District is afforded full academic freedom described herein.