

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

- A. Due process in academic freedom disputes between students and faculty.
In an academic freedom dispute between a student and a faculty member, the parties must first attempt to achieve an informal resolution. Such an attempt may include a meeting between the student, the faculty member, and the appropriate division chair or area dean.

If an informal resolution is not achieved, a student may file a formal grievance as outlined in AP 5503.

- B. Due process in an academic freedom dispute between faculty members.
In an academic freedom dispute between two or more faculty members, the parties must first attempt to achieve an informal resolution. Such an attempt may include a meeting between faculty members and the appropriate division chair(s) and/or area dean(s).

If an informal resolution is not achieved, the parties involved should consult with the President of COSTA and the President of the Academic Senate in order to achieve a satisfactory resolution to the dispute.

- C. Due process in an academic freedom dispute between faculty and District/non-faculty managers.
Any faculty member who believes his/her academic freedom has been violated by the District has the right to grievance as outlined in the COSTA Master Agreement, Section XVII. There shall be no reprisals of any kind taken against any participants or representatives because of participation in such processes.

- D. Due process when faculty believes there is a legitimate threat to academic freedom.
Any faculty member who thinks that his/her academic freedom is being threatened by students, faculty or staff, other organizations, or members of the public who do not represent the District should contact both the Academic Senate President and the President of COSTA. Either the Academic Senate President or the President of COSTA can request a timely meeting with appropriate academic administrators and/or the Superintendent/President of the District to discuss how to best assure and protect academic freedom. This procedure may take place exclusive of any formal grievance.

*Some of the language and procedures outlined in this procedure are adapted from the Pasadena Area Community College District's procedures for disputes regarding academic freedom.

References: Title 5 Section 51023; ACCJC Accreditation Eligibility Requirement 20;
ACCJC Accreditation Standard I.C.7

Adopted: January 11, 2016