

# ADAA updates to Faculty Senate

2/24/2021

# Alternative grades

- Will be in place again this spring
- A strong advising component is needed
- Should be used with extreme caution and awareness of of unexpected consequences

# Final exams

- Please check your scheduled exams
- Please do not shorten exam periods from the scheduled number of minutes

# PaSSS and CEDS/WISE

- CEDS/WISE is undergoing revisions, but will be offered. Stay tuned.
- PaSSS is moving forward with some interesting changes
  - Returning to something much closer to our usual
  - Will include a faculty academy for PaSSS instructors
  - Will include English and Math Academies
  - Now has a comprehensive set of learning outcomes and assessments

# FYE Task Force

- Led by Rod Troester with representatives from
  - all 4 schools
  - Faculty Council
  - Student Affairs and key academic support departments
- Goal is to identify the common topics that need to be addressed in all FYE/FYS courses to support student:
  - Academic success and planning
  - Engagement with the college and with each other

# Academic Freedom

- Disclaimer – this is not my area of expertise, and I am paraphrasing AC-64 to avoid mis-speaking.
- You can find additional resources related to academic freedom and the First Amendment on the web page of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Kathy Bieschke
- <https://www.vpfa.psu.edu/academic-leadership-forums/>

# Academic Freedom for Faculty – AC 64

- Rights & Responsibilities
- Teaching, Research, and Support Duties
- As a citizen
- As related to the University
- In Research and Publication
- As Instructors

# AC64 Academic Freedom

## PURPOSE:

- Academic freedom: the environment provided by the University that permits faculty members to engage in their scholarly pursuits
- Academic responsibility: the duty and obligation of all faculty to recognize that all members of the University have
  - the right to express their own views
  - the responsibility to accord the same rights to others
  - a duty to make clear when they are not speaking for the institution in matters of public interest
- The University should be an institution whose members
  - may express themselves freely
  - while protecting and respecting the rights of others to learn, to do research, and to carry out the essential functions of the University free from interference or obstruction



## AC64 AS A CITIZEN:

- A faculty member is free to express their views as a private citizen.
- The public may judge the profession and institution by what is said.
- Hence, the faculty member should take care to
  - be accurate
  - exercise appropriate restraint
  - show respect for the opinions of others
  - make it clear that they are not speaking for Penn State

AS RELATED TO THE UNIVERSITY:

The faculty member agrees to

- abide by the regulations of the University
- do their job to the best of their ability
- Faculty members are free to speak and write on
  - governance issues of their departments, colleges, units, libraries, and the University
  - all matters related to their professional duties
- Faculty members are responsible for respecting confidentiality and the privacy rights of others.

IN RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION:

- Faculty members are free to engage in research or scholarship of their own undertaking.
- Research should be conducted in accordance with policies and memoranda of agreement between the University and industries or other agencies.
- Librarians are free to select and make available any materials supporting the teaching, research, and general learning functions of the academic community.

## IN INSTRUCTIONAL ROLES:

Academic freedom is also inherent in faculty members' roles in the classroom and in related instructional activities. Faculty members are, however, responsible for the maintenance of appropriate standards of scholarship and teaching ability, and for ensuring that there is no insertion or intrusion of material that has no relation to the subject matter of instruction. Faculty members are expected to educate students to think for themselves, and to facilitate access to relevant materials that they need to form their own opinions. Faculty members are expected to present information fairly, and to set forth justly divergent opinions that arise out of scholarly methods and professionalism.

No faculty member may claim as a right the privilege of discussing in the classroom controversial topics outside or unrelated to his/her own field of study. The faculty member is normally bound not to take advantage of his/her position by introducing into the classroom provocative discussions of irrelevant subjects not within the field of his/her study.

# Key take-aways:

- Inform yourselves on this topic
- Have a plan for what happens if a student introduces a topic that is
  - not germane to the course
  - controversial