

# Board of Trustees Ethics Expectations

## Board of Trustees – Statement on Professional Ethics

### CWU Policy 105-01

**Effective:** May 2012

**Policy Review Date:** YEAR

**Policy Executive:** Board of Trustees

**Responsible Office/Unit:** Secretary to the Board of Trustees

#### **Policy Statement:**

#### **Applicability:**

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#### **Content:**

Policy

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(1) The board of trustees recognizes that ethics are expectations, not orders. The following statements are not meant as directives, but as guidelines observed by professionals in higher education that are endorsed by the trustees.

- A. Faculty members shall be guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, and recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end, they shall devote their energies to developing and improving scholarly competence. They shall accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They shall practice intellectual honesty and integrity. Although faculty may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise freedom of inquiry or excellence of performance.
- B. As teachers, faculty members shall encourage the free pursuit of learning in students. They shall hold before them the best scholarly standards of their disciplines. They shall demonstrate respect for students as individuals and shall adhere to their proper roles as intellectual guides and counselors. They shall make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that their evaluation of students reflects their true merit. Faculty shall respect the confidential nature of the relationship between faculty members and students. They shall avoid any exploitation of students for private advantage and shall acknowledge significant assistance from them. Faculty shall protect students' academic freedom.
- C. As colleagues, faculty members have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. They shall respect and defend the free inquiry of associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, faculty shall show due respect for the opinions of others. They

shall acknowledge academic debts and strive to be objective in professional judgment of colleagues. They shall accept their share of faculty responsibility for the governance of the institution.

- D. As members of the institution, faculty should seek, above all, to be effective teachers and scholars. Although they shall abide by the stated regulations of the institution, provided they do not contravene academic freedom, they shall retain their right to criticize and seek revision. Faculty shall determine the amount and character of the work they do outside the institution with due regard to the paramount responsibilities within it.
  - a. When considering interruption or termination of service, faculty shall be cognizant of the effect of their decision upon the program of the institution and shall give due notice of their intentions as provided in this code.
- E. As members of the community, faculty shall have the same rights and obligations of any citizen. They shall measure the urgency of these obligations in light of their responsibilities to their subjects, to their students, to their profession, and to their institution. When faculty speak or act as a private persons, they shall avoid creating the impression that they speak or act for the university. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, faculty members have a particular obligation to understanding academic freedom.
- F. At each regular meeting there shall be a pre-determined amount of time set aside for public comment.

### **History:**

*05/2012, Resolution 12-04*

*09/1999, Motion 99-33; 06/2008: Responsibility: Board of Trustees; Authority: Cabinet/UPAC; Reviewed/Endorsed by: Cabinet/UPAC; Review/Effective Date: 05/2012; Approved by: James L. Gaudino, President  
Reformatted and Assigned new Policy Number - Previous Policy CWUP 1-50-010, June 2025*