

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
GUIDELINES FOR EXERCISING AND DEFENDING ACADEMIC FREEDOM

1. As recognized in Article II of the University Faculty Code, the University is committed to the principles of academic freedom, including free inquiry, free expression, and the vigorous discussion and debate in which the advancement of the University's educational mission depends. Consistent with these Guidelines and University policies referred to below, faculty members and other members of the University community enjoy the broadest possible latitude to inquire, speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn, except insofar as viewpoint-neutral and content-neutral limitations on that freedom are demonstrably necessary to permit the University to perform its academic and educational functions (including, for example, the holding of classes and the conduct of authorized research activities without interference or disruption by individuals or groups inside or outside the University community) and to fulfill its administrative responsibilities.
2. The ideas of different faculty members and of various other members of the University community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals within or outside the University from ideas

functions, or (C) to enable the University to comply with applicable federal and local laws and otherwise fulfill its administrative responsibilities

4. Article II.A of the Faculty Code provides that "[i]n speaking and writing outside the University, a faculty member shall not attribute his or her personal views to the University." To comply with Internal Revenue Service restrictions, the University's Policy on Political Activity provides that University employees "may not speak for or on behalf of the university when expressing support for or opposition to a candidate for public Office."
5. Faculty members and other members of the University community are free to criticize and contest the views expressed on campus, and to criticize and contest the views of speakers who have been invited to express their views on campus; however, faculty members and other members of the University community may not obstruct or interfere with the rights of others on campus to express their views (for example, by blocking access to a University-sanctioned forum or by attempting to silence or shout down a speaker at such a forum). Appropriate disciplinary action may be taken under applicable University policies against members of the University community who intentionally obstruct or interfere with the exercise of academic freedom and freedom of expression and inquiry that are protected under these Guidelines as well as the University's Policies on Demonstrations and Disruptions of University Functions
6. If faculty members believe that their right to exercise academic freedom under Article II of the Faculty Code and these Guidelines has been restricted or impaired by actions or threats from persons within or outside the University, those faculty members may contact the Chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom, or the Office of the Provost to