

Resolution 2015-14. Statement on Academic Freedom and Responsibility

The Faculty Council resolves:

The faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill adheres to the principle of academic freedom by which faculty members are at liberty to teach and engage in scholarship and research without undue interference. At the same time, the faculty acknowledges the obligation to exercise this freedom with honesty and integrity. That obligation extends to our students and faculty colleagues, to the institution that affords us the opportunity to pursue knowledge and understanding, and to our colleagues throughout the academic world who share with us this high calling. This faculty affirms its commitment to academic freedom rightly understood and zealously guarded.

Submitted by the Faculty Council Agenda Committee

Comment:

This resolution puts the faculty on record as affirming the expectation that academic freedom is exercised with honesty and integrity. It is prompted by the observation in the SACS First Monitoring Report (July 1, 2015) that academic irregularities occurred “under the auspices” of the current authoritative documents that endorse the principle of academic freedom, and the suggestion that additional communication avenues are needed to prevent such irregularities from occurring. The resolution is by no means the only institutional response to those observations; rather, it is intended as an opportunity for the faculty to take a position on this important issue on our own initiative.