

## Copper Mountain College – Academic Affairs

### Board Policy 4030      Academic Freedom

Reference:

*Title 5, Section 51023; Accreditation Standard II.A.6*

#### **Academic Freedom and Responsibility**

The Copper Mountain Community College District supports the PRINCIPLE of academic freedom. College faculty and students must be free to cultivate a spirit of critical inquiry and scholarly pursuit within a collegial atmosphere that demonstrates respect for the opinions of others. The oral and written discussion of concepts and topics should involve a free and uncensored exchange of ideas. Our college believes in the development of the whole person within an environment where respect for the ideas and traditions of others is UPHELD.

The College supports the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Statement of Principle as it relates to Academic Freedom.

*“Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition. Academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning. It carries with it duties correlative with rights.”*

- a) *Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.*
- b) *Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter that has no relation to their subject. The intention of this statement is not to discourage what is “controversial.” Controversy is at the heart of free academic inquiry. The passage serves to underscore the need for teachers to avoid persistently intruding material that has no relation to their subject.*

c) *College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.*

Adopted: 03/13/2008