

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
POLICY REVIEW AND COMMENT DOCUMENT  
DATED 9/29/2015

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO POLICY 3.1  
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*POLICY CONTENT FORMAT:*

*Single underlining* represents proposed new language.

*Strikeouts* represent existing language proposed to be eliminated.

1 **Policy 3.1 Student Rights and Responsibilities**

2 **Part 1. Freedom to Learn-**

3 In addition to the basic constitutional rights enjoyed by all citizens, students in colleges and  
4 universities have specific rights related to academic freedom and their status as students.  
5 Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom  
6 to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in ~~the classroom~~ all learning  
7 environments, on the campus, and in the larger community. Students are expected to exercise  
8 their freedom with responsibility.

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10 **Part 2. Freedom of Expression-**

11 Individual students and student organizations shall be free to examine and to discuss all  
12 questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. They shall be free to  
13 support causes by orderly means that do not substantially disrupt the regular and essential  
14 operation of the system college or university ~~institution~~. Students shall be free to take reasoned  
15 exception to the ~~data~~ information or views offered in any course of study and to reserve  
16 judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any  
17 course of study for which they are enrolled.

18  
19 **Part 3. Freedom of Association-**

20 Students shall be free to organize and join organizations to promote their common and lawful  
21 interests, subject to ~~institutional~~ system college or university policies, procedures, or regulations.  
22 Registration or recognition may be withheld or withdrawn from organizations that violate  
23 ~~institutional~~ system college or university policies, procedures, or regulations.

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25 **Part 4. Student-Sponsored Forums-**

26 Students shall have the right to assemble, to select speakers, and to discuss issues of their choice.  
27 The college or university shall establish reasonable time, place and manner restrictions to assure  
28 that the assembly does not substantially disrupt the work of the ~~institution~~ system college or  
29 university or does not interfere with the opportunity of other students to obtain an education or  
30 otherwise infringe upon the rights of others. Such regulations ~~shall~~ must not be used as a means  
31 of censorship. The president or designee may prohibit any forum when there is a likelihood of  
32 harm to individuals or damage to property if the event is held. Prior to any such prohibition, the  
33 president shall make his or her best effort to consult with the student association.

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35 **Part 5. Student Publications.**

36 Student-funded publications ~~shall~~ must be free of censorship and advance approval of copy, ~~and~~  
37 ~~¶~~ Their editors and managers shall be free to develop their own editorial and news coverage  
38 policies. Editors, ~~and~~ managers, and contributors of student publications shall be protected from  
39 arbitrary suspension and removal because of student, faculty, administrative, or public  
40 disapproval of editorial policy or content. The student fee allocation process ~~shall~~ must not be  
41 used as a means of editorial control of student-funded publications. All student publications ~~shall~~  
42 must explicitly state on the editorial page that the opinions there expressed are not necessarily  
43 those of the college, university, system, or student body.  
44

45 **Part 6. Student Policies.**

46 The policies, procedures, and regulations of the system college or university regarding student  
47 expectations, rights and responsibilities ~~shall~~ must be readily accessible to students.  
48

49 **Part 7. Catalog and Course Information.**

50 To the extent possible, students ~~shall~~ must be provided relevant and accurate information  
51 regarding courses prior to enrollment. Catalog course descriptions and website postings ~~shall~~  
52 must be accurate and based on information existing at the time of publication. To the extent  
53 possible, class schedules ~~shall~~ must list the names of faculty teaching the courses.  
54

55 **Part 8. Student Academic Standing Information.**

56 Students shall have access to accurate information for establishing and maintaining acceptable  
57 academic standing, information which will enable students to determine their individual  
58 academic standing, and information regarding graduation requirements.  
59

60 **Part 9. Academic Evaluation.**

61 Student academic performance ~~shall~~ must be evaluated solely on the basis of academic standards,  
62 including any requirements that are noted in the catalog, course syllabus, or student handbook.  
63 Students ~~shall~~ must have protection against prejudiced or capricious evaluation and ~~shall~~ not be  
64 evaluated on the basis of opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.  
65 Students ~~shall~~ must have the right to review their corrected examinations or other required  
66 assignments used by the faculty in evaluating the student's academic performance.  
67

68 **Part 10. Property Rights.**

69 Term papers, essays, projects, works of art, and similar property including property in which the  
70 student has intellectual property rights pursuant to Board Policy 3.26 ~~shall~~ must be returned to a  
71 student upon request, within a reasonable timeframe, when no longer needed for evaluation  
72 purposes, unless the student grants written permission for them to be retained.  
73

74 **Part 11. Student Review and Consultation.**

75 Students ~~shall~~ must have the right to appropriate levels of participation in college and university  
76 decision-making pursuant to Policy 2.3 and Procedure 2.3.1, Student Involvement in Decision-  
77 Making.  
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83 **Related Documents:**

- 84 • [Policy 2.3 Student Involvement in Decision-Making](#)
  - 85 • [Procedure 2.3.1 Student Involvement in Decision-Making](#)
  - 86 • [Policy 3.39 Transfer Rights and Responsibilities](#)
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89 **Policy History**

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91 *Date of Implementation: 01/18/95,*

92 *Date of Adoption: 01/18/95,*

93 *Date of Last Review: xx/xx/xx,*

94 ***Date and Subject of ~~Revision~~Amendment:***

95 *Xx/xx/xx – Applied the new policy formatting standards, replaced obsolete language, added*  
96 *Date of Last Review in policy history section, and inserted the 11/20/09 amendment date*  
97 *and information in the line below.*

98 *11/20/09 – Reviewed, no changes.*

99 *12/7/05 – Amends policy to add clarifying language and deletes unnecessary language. Adds*  
100 *new Part 6 – to assure that information on student expectations, rights and*  
101 *responsibilities is readily accessible to students, and new Part 11 that refers students to*  
102 *Policy 2.3 and Procedure 2.3.1, Student Involvement in Decision Making. Part 10 is*  
103 *deleted because it is addressed in the proposed Student Conduct Procedure (3.6.1).*

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105 *No additional HISTORY*