جامعة المستقبل
AL MUSTAQBAL UNIVERSITY

Academic Freedom Policy

Name of policy	Academic Freedom Policy
Code	AF-V1
Description of Policy	The policy safeguards academic freedom for faculty members and students, including freedom to teach, learn, research, publish, choose research topics and methods, and participate in public debate and institutional decision-making. It protects academic expression from adverse employment consequences while requiring professional responsibility, lawful conduct, academic and research ethics, and compliance with University and Ministry regulations.
Policy Applies to	All faculty members in all colleges and scientific departments, staff, and associates of the college who participate in academic activities within their fields of expertise. The policy also addresses the academic rights and protection of students.
Policy Status	Policy document; the text states that it is reviewed every two years or earlier as needed.
Final Approval Authority	President of the Council of Al-Mustaqbal University.
Governing Authority	Not separately specified in the policy. The stated approval authority is the President of the Council of Al-Mustaqbal University.
Approval Date	Not specified in the policy document.
Effective Date	July 2023 (stated Start Date).
Date of Last Revision	July 2025
Date of Next Revision	July 2027

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Section (1)

Policy Statement

The President of the University Council, Prof. Hassan Shaker Magdy, asserts that higher education institutions are managed for the benefit of society and not to promote the interests of individuals or the institution as a whole. The common good depends on the free search for truth, which makes academic freedom necessary for all disciplines.

Freedom to research is fundamental to the advancement of truth and is necessary to protect the rights of faculty and students. Academic freedom comes with duties associated with these rights, regardless of employment status.

Academic freedom contributes to the preservation of excellence in education, allowing society to benefit from objective and independent criticism, and leading to honest answers to scientific, social, and technical questions of interest to any social group. Accordingly, there will be no negative consequences for employment status (e.g. recruitment, promotion, retention) as a result of expressions protected by academic freedom.

Section (2)

Definitions

A. Academic freedom is the principle of freedom of expression for researchers who are engaged in teaching, learning, research, publication, and service related to the discipline. Academic freedom is the foundation of intellectual discovery, as it ensures an open search for knowledge and contributes to an environment that fosters students' development of critical habits of mind, which are essential for citizens of a democratic society. Academic freedom includes rights and responsibilities.

B. Academic responsibility includes the faithful performance of professional duties, recognition of the demands of the scientific institution, and clarity in expressing that when discussing issues of public interest, a person does not speak on behalf of the institution.

C. "Speech" includes all forms of expression, including oral speech, written works, arts, music, and performance. It also includes protests, peaceful activities, and social media communication. The word "speech" carries an overarching meaning that includes all these forms.

Article (3)

To whom does it apply

All faculty members in all colleges and scientific departments, staff, and associates of the college participate in academic activities within their field of expertise.

Section (4)

Policy reason

Academic freedom is the centerpiece of the college's mission. Knowledge cannot be developed unless faculty and librarians are free to study and transmit ideas and facts, including those that do

not suit political groups or authorities, without fear of accusations. Al-Mustaqbal University is administered for the common good and not for the interests of individual faculty or the college as a whole. The common good depends on the free search for and presentation of truth.

Section (5)

Range

Professional independence and academic freedom in teaching, scientific research, studies, courses, and workshops are adopted on the Friday of the Al-Mustaqbal and in all disciplines.

Section (6)

Politics

A. Faculty members at Al-Mustaqbal University have the right to have complete freedom to research and publish results.
B. Faculty members at Al-Mustaqbal University have freedom in research topics to have a role in advancing truth.
C. Faculty members at Al-Mustaqbal University are free to choose their research approach appropriate to the subject under investigation.
D. Faculty members at Al-Mustaqbal University are free to choose teaching methods and methods to achieve the learning objectives of the courses.
E. Academic freedom in all disciplines is fundamental to the protection of the rights of faculty and students.
F. There will be no negative consequences for employment status (recruitment, promotion, retention) as a result of expressions of academic freedom.
G. Freedom to participate in public debate Faculty members generally have the right to participate as citizens in forums and public discussions without
H. Fear of institutional discipline or restraint, as long as it is clear that they are not acting or speaking for the college.
I. Freedom from internal criticism The University College of the Al-Mustaqbal promotes the common good, not through individual decisions or bureaucratic calculations, but through extensive participation in scientific endeavors. Because of their education and institutional knowledge,
J. Faculty members play an indispensable role as independent participants in college decision-making. In this role
K. They have the right to comment on or criticize college policies or decisions, individually or through faculty governance institutions.

Article (7)

Citizen

Faculty members are considered citizens, members of the scientific professions, and representatives of the university and its colleges. When a faculty member speaks or writes as citizens, they should be free from any institutional oversight or discipline. However, the special

role they occupy in society imposes special obligations on them.
As educated people and educators, faculty members are expected to remember that the public may judge the profession and the institution based on their statements. Faculty members agree at all times on the need to be accurate, exercise appropriate self-control, and show respect for the perspectives of others. They should also make every effort to indicate that they are not spokespersons for the institution.

Section (8)

Educational roles

Academic freedom is also manifested in faculty roles within the classroom and related educational activities. However, faculty members are responsible for maintaining appropriate standards for scholarship and quality of instruction, and ensuring that non-subject-related materials are not entered.
Faculty members are expected to educate students so they can think for themselves, and facilitate access to materials needed to form their own opinions. Faculty members should present information fairly, presenting divergent opinions in a balanced manner, based on scientific and professional methods.
No faculty member may consider the discussion of controversial topics an absolute right outside of their major. Faculty members commit not to abuse their position by introducing provocative discussions on topics that are irrelevant or outside their field of study.

Section (9)

Research & Publishing

Faculty members are free to participate in their research or other academic activities, and to publish the results of their work. Research conducted at the College must be in line with the provisions outlined in the institution's official research policies or memoranda of agreement between the College and other industries or agencies.
Librarians are also allowed the freedom to choose and provide materials that support the teaching, research, and general learning functions of the academic community.

Section (10)

Responsibility

Like all rights, a faculty's right to academic freedom carries with it responsibilities. There is a duty, responsibility, and obligation on scholarship students to exercise their right to academic freedom following the following principles:

A. Faculty members are responsible for the content of their scientific work.
B. Faculty members behave reasonably, professionally, and in good faith.
C. Faculty members act lawfully, including under laws governing defamation, harassment, defamation, obscenity, and other applicable legislation.
D. Faculty members act by the principles of academic and research ethics.

E. Faculty members may exercise legal freedom of expression in matters not protected by this policy, provided that this is done in their capacity only.
F. By recognizing, promoting, and supporting the right to academic freedom, the University does not imply endorsing certain views expressed by faculty. The opinions expressed are those of the researcher, although affiliation with the university is indicated. Opinions on behalf of the University can only be expressed by officials and executives because of the position they hold or by other University staff if specifically authorized to do so.

In exercising academic freedom, faculty members will at all times also abide by the University's Code of Conduct and Student Code of Conduct, respectively, and regulations of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Section (11)

Review

This policy is reviewed every two years or earlier as needed

approval

Document Type: Policy
Title: The Politics of Academic Freedom
Approval Authority: President of the Council of Al-Mustaqbal University Effective Date: July 2023
Signature :

Date:

Certified by:
Prof . Dr. Hassan Shaker Majdi, President of the Al-Mustaqbal University Council