

**BURRELL COLLEGE  
OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE  
POLICY MANUAL**

SECTION: General Administration and Leadership

Policy: B2012

TOPIC: Academic Freedom

Approval Date: 1/25/2022

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Approved: Signature on File

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## **POLICY**

The College shall respect the academic freedom of faculty, staff and students and maintain such procedures as may be needed to ensure the common practice of this policy.

### **Faculty**

The College respects and supports the academic freedom of faculty members and has adopted principles consistent with those promoted by the American Association of University Professors: Faculty are entitled to full freedom in scholarly activity and in research, including publication of research results, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties. Burrell faculty represent the institution and any statements made in that role should reflect the principles and policies promoted by the College. Faculty are entitled to freedom in the classroom in teaching and discussing course topics, recognizing that their efforts are coordinated with others who have responsibilities within the same course and program. Faculty must take care to not introduce into their teaching controversial matters that have no relation to the subject of a course. The College will not impose any limitation on faculty members' exposition of their subjects within or outside the College. Faculty are entitled to the rights and privileges granted to them by virtue of citizenship and by membership in an academic educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship, retaliation or discipline. However, faculty are reminded their special position in the community imposes specific obligations. As scholars and educators, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence, they should always 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.

### **Students**

As members and citizens of an academic community, student also have academic rights that are extensions of, and complementary to, those academic freedoms accorded faculty. Principally, the student has the freedom to learn. It is important that students engage in learning and recognize their role in scholarly activity and/or teaching is an extension of the academic freedoms accorded a faculty member. In an academic institution, freedom to express one's opinions and positions should be recognized within the realm of professionalism as described in the Burrell Student Handbook and other guides of professional behavior (AOA, AMA, and others). However, differences of opinion should be approached with temperance and tolerance.

### **RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL(S)**

Office of Human Resources

Office of Student Affairs

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

### **PROCEDURES**

1. All potential violations of academic freedom shall be reported via the College's Grievance form.

2. All violations of this policy should be reported via the College Grievance process in which the grievance procedures will be followed.
3. Any disciplinary action related to academic freedom that are initiated against a faculty member, including censure, reprimand, suspension, dismissal, or other disciplinary action, will be managed in accordance with the College's grievance and appeal processes. A final decision regarding disciplinary action should consider the faculty member's entire record as a teacher and scholar.

#### **CROSS-REFERENCE**

Burrell Faculty Handbook  
Burrell Student Handbook  
Standard Operating Procedure RSP.021 – Research Misconduct Proceeding  
Policy B2040 Grievance Policy

#### **RESOURCES**

American Association of University Professors