

CS 3.7.4 - Academic Freedom

The institution ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

As a center of learning, a university depends upon the free search for truth and its true exposition. Academic freedom is essential to effective instruction, continuing scholarship, and active service, and applies to both teaching and research. The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) safeguards and protects academic freedom by adhering to the policies outlined in the Faculty Manual [i] and in the Student Handbook [ii] regarding academic freedom.

Faculty members often play dual roles of citizen and professor. Due to their special position in the community, when faculty members speak or write as citizens, they are under special obligations. The public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Faculty members should therefore at all times strive to be accurate, exercise appropriate restraint, respect the right of others to express their opinions, and make every effort to indicate that they are not spokespersons for the university.

Faculty members who believe that their academic freedom has been infringed upon may request in writing that the Faculty Senate Chair initiate an investigation. The Faculty Senate Chair will refer the request to the Chancellor and to the appropriate Faculty Senate committee [iii].

Tenure is an assurance that academic freedom will be protected. The University of South Carolina System supports both academic freedom [iv] and the tenure system [v].

In the University of South Carolina System, the authority for recommending tenure to the President of the University System rests with the Chancellor of USC Beaufort. Final authority for recommending tenure to the University Board of Trustees resides with the President, and final authority for approving recommendations of tenure rests with the Board of Trustees.

Supporting Documentation

- [i Faculty Manual -- Academic Freedom](#)
- [ii USC Beaufort Student Handbook -- Academic Freedom](#)
- [iii USC Beaufort Faculty Manual -- Academic Grievances](#)
- [iv USC Beaufort Faculty Manual -- Academic Freedom](#)
- [v USC Beaufort Faculty Manual -- Tenure](#)