

Academic Freedom

Updated: 06/15/2011

Preamble

We, the Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty, and Students of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, in order to provide the guidelines and parameters by which the members of our two Schools are guaranteed the exercise of academic freedom commensurate with the purpose and mission of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, acknowledge the directives found in the Association of Theological Schools' Policy Statement on "Academic Freedom and Tenure" (*Bulletin* 43, Part 1, 1998; *Bulletin* 50, Part 1, 2012) and *NEASC Standards of Accreditation* (Standard 5.14, 2011). In light of these directives, we are committed to providing the best possible teaching and learning environment, assuring the integrity of our mission, the faith and teachings of the Orthodox Church, and the practices of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Statement

Academic freedom at Hellenic College and Holy Cross shall be exercised in accordance with the following guidelines and expectations:

1. Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology shall adhere to the basic principle of academic freedom which guarantees the right of teachers to seek knowledge and present their findings without interference or penalty.
2. As institutions of higher learning, Hellenic College and Holy Cross integrate the Orthodox Faith with learning. In that regard, the Institution will adhere to the principles of academic freedom while simultaneously holding firm to principles based on the centuries-old dogmas and canons of the Orthodox Faith.
3. In the religious, theological, and philosophical exposition and investigation of the scriptural, doctrinal, canonical, and moral foundations of the Orthodox Church, all faculty are expected to distinguish carefully between their own insights, developments, and speculations, on the one hand, and the teaching and dogmas which are held by the Orthodox Church on the other. In the classroom, faculty are free to discuss without harassment or limitations those subjects in which they have competence and a claim to be specialists.

4. The Institution recognizes that this inherent right of the faculty is based on the principle that the function of an institution of higher learning is to increase and preserve knowledge, evaluate it, and impart it to others. For the Institution to perform this function, its scholars must be free to hold and express controversial views, for the sake of testing ideas and advancing knowledge.
5. Despite all good will, there may be conflicts arising from statements or reported teaching of the faculty. To meet this situation in cases which cannot be satisfactorily clarified and resolved by a conference between the Academic Dean and the faculty member, a formal process may be initiated by either party. This formal process will allow for the presentation of the facts to the conflict to the Faculty Grievance Committee. Any decision of this committee involving matters of a doctrinal, ecclesiastical or canonical nature may be further appealed within ten days, in writing, to the Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for a final decision.