



Date: May 4, 2023

Memorandum to: Georgina Dopico, Interim Provost

From: David K Irving
Chairperson, T-Faculty Senators Council
A/Y 2022-2023

Subject: T-Faculty Senators Council Resolution Reaffirming Academic Freedom

The T-Faculty Senators Council submits the attached resolution regarding academic freedom, including in the classroom. This resolution was approved by the Council at the May 4, 2023 meeting.

cc: Kristen Day, Vice Provost
Ellen Schall, Senior Presidential Fellow

Noelle Molé Liston, C-FSC Chairperson

Marilyn Nonken, T-FSC Vice Chairperson
Christopher Park, T-FSC Secretary
Tamar Schlick, T-FSC Grievance Committee Chair
Karyn Ridder, Manager of Faculty Governance

T-FSC Resolution Reaffirming Academic Freedom, including in the Classroom

WHEREAS, academic freedom is a centerpiece of both research and teaching of faculty at NYU, including NYU's global sites;

WHEREAS, the Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty Senators Council (T-FSC), representing the NYU tenured/tenure track faculty, reaffirms that all NYU course instructors have a distinct perspective on the educational mission of their departmental program and their course content within that program, as well as the course evaluation process for assessing student performance in the classroom;

WHEREAS, in light of rising student petitions and conflicts about grading, we believe that a reaffirmation of academic freedom rights and clarification of conflict resolution protocols is warranted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the T-FSC reaffirms:

1. All academic freedom rights of faculty as summarized in the NYU Faculty handbook, including classroom instruction of their subject, design of appropriate materials to enhance student learning, and the level of rigor required for successful mastery of the subject content.
2. The right of NYU faculty to evaluate student performance in their courses by criteria set forth in the course syllabus distributed to all registered students at the beginning of the course.

In the case of conflict or petition action by the students, the T-FSC RESOLVES that the Department in question (Chair, Directors of Undergraduate or Graduate Studies, and/or other faculty as appropriate) works fully with the course instructor and divisional dean/s to reach a conflict resolution that respects academic freedom rights and the authority of the instructor as an expert to judge the course material and student performance.

The T-FSC is committed to these resolutions and to taking strong steps to reaffirm academic freedom and rigor in the classroom, as well as to eliminate any semblance of interference with or dilution of this process as a result of student action focused solely on improved grades rather than better learning.