

Series 600 – Education Program

Policy Title: TEACHING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Policy Code No. 603.9R1

A “controversial issue” is a topic of significant academic inquiry about which substantial groups of citizens of this community, this state, or this nation hold sincere, conflicting points of view.

It is the belief of the board that controversial issues should be fairly presented in a spirit of honest academic freedom so that students may recognize the validity of other points of view but can learn to formulate their own opinions based upon dispassionate, objective, unbiased study and discussion of the facts related to the controversy.

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor to present full and fair opportunity and means for students to study, consider, and discuss all sides of controversial issues including, but not limited to, political philosophies.

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor to protect the rights of the student to study pertinent controversial issues within limits of good taste and to allow the student to express personal opinions without jeopardizing the student’s relationship with the teacher.

It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views or selfish propaganda of any kind through any classroom or school device; however, an instructor will not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as students are encouraged to reach their own decisions independently.

The board encourages full discussion of controversial issues in a spirit of academic freedom that shows students that they have the right to disagree with the opinions of others but that they also have the responsibility to base the disagreement on facts and to respect the right of others to hold conflicting opinions.

Date of Adoption	08/14/1989
Review Date	05/18/2020
Revision Date	05/18/2020