

Hunter College Standing Committee on Academic Freedom: Procedures for Adjudicating an Academic Freedom Complaint at Hunter

1. **Who can bring a complaint** Any individual or group of individuals of the Hunter College community including, but not limited to, full- and part-time instructional and non-instructional staff, members of the administration, and students.
2. **Form of complaints** Complaints may be made orally or via a written mechanism (including email). Complaints may be received directly from the aggrieved party/parties or from a third party who believes that they observed a breach of an individual's or group's academic freedom rights. Any member of the Academic Freedom Committee may accept a complaint after which it shall be passed to the Chair of the Committee.
3. **Initial inquiry** An informal 'fact finding' inquiry shall be initiated by the Chair of the Committee. It is the Chair's responsibility to determine the merits of the complaint, and if the complaint involves issues of academic freedom. If the Chair determines that the complaint falls outside the purview of academic freedom, the complainant(s) will be notified; no further action will be taken.
4. **Informal complaint** If the complaint was made informally and the complainant is unwilling to submit a written, signed complaint then the Chair, respecting the complainant's right to anonymity, will report the results of the initial inquiry to the Committee; no further action will be taken.
5. **Formal complaint** A formal investigation of a breach of academic freedom rights will be initiated after a signed complaint is submitted by the complainant to the Chair of the Committee.
 - a. The Chair in consultation with the complainant will form an investigative sub-committee of two members of the Academic Freedom Committee. At the discretion of the Chair, a student member of the Committee will be added to the sub-committee.
 - b. The sub-committee will then conduct an investigation.
 - c. The sub-committee will attempt to bring about a resolution of the matter that is satisfactory to all parties concerned; the sub-committee will report the results of the investigation to the complainant(s), the alleged violator(s) and the Committee.
 - d. If, in the opinion of the sub-committee, no resolution is possible, the sub-committee will report its findings and recommendations to the Committee. After review by the Committee, a report of the findings and recommendations will be forwarded to the complainant(s), the alleged violator(s), the Executive Committee of the Senate, and the Provost.
6. **Privacy** The privacy of the party/parties bringing a complaint of a breach of academic freedom must be respected, and information obtained in connection with the submission of the complaint and any subsequent investigation or resolution of the complaint will be handled with utmost confidentiality.

Standing Committee on Academic Freedom

On 27 September 2006 the Hunter College Senate established a Standing Committee on Academic Freedom..

The charge of the committee includes:

- to monitor, examine and report annually to the Senate on the status of academic freedom at the college;
- to make appropriate recommendations regarding academic freedom policies and practices to the college's governance bodies and, as appropriate, through those bodies to the University Faculty Senate
- to investigate possible violations of academic freedom.

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In order to ensure a secure and protected environment for individuals who wish to bring cases of abridgement of academic freedom before the committee, such charges will be examined by a sub-committee of two members chosen by the complainant or, if requested, by the committee chair.

Membership of the Standing Committee on Academic Freedom:

Chair: William Sakas (Computer Science)

Faculty from Sciences & Mathematics: William Sakas (Computer Science)

Faculty from Humanities & Arts: Sarah Chinn (English)

Faculty from Social Sciences: Ruth Sidel (Sociology)

Faculty from Education: Kimberly Kinsler (Educational Foundations)

Faculty from Health Professions: Philip Alcabes (School of Health Sciences)

Faculty from Social Work: Stephen Burghardt

Faculty from Library: Julio Hernandez-Delgado

Faculty At-large: Diana Conchada (Romance Languages)

HEO Staff: Anthony Grande (School of Social Work)

Student: vacant

Student: vacant

Faculty Alternate: Cristina Alfar (English)

Faculty Alternate: Haydee Salmun (Geography)

HEO Alternate: Dana Reimer (Geography)

Ex-Officio: Provost Vita Rabinowitz