

Revised Mission Statement for the Hunter College Standing Committee on Academic Freedom

Academic freedom extends to all members of the Hunter College community. At its core, it constitutes the freedom to conduct research, teach, speak, and publish, subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth and understanding may lead. For faculty both individually and in the context of shared governance, it comprises the freedom, based on expertise in the field, to design and implement curriculum and evaluate colleagues within the structures elaborated by the CUNY Bylaws and the Hunter College Senate. For instructors both part-time and full-time, it consists in teaching, evaluation of students, research, creative activity, and publication within their areas of expertise, as well as the freedom to speak extramurally. Academic freedom is of paramount importance in the realms of reappointment, tenure, and promotion. For students, academic freedom consists in the ability to be free within the classroom, laboratory, and other College spaces to express the widest range of viewpoints in accord with the standards of scholarly inquiry.

The charge of the Hunter College Senate Standing Committee on Academic Freedom 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.

Structurally, investigations into academic freedom complaints neither replace nor serve as an alternative to pre-existing grievance or appeals procedures, including but not limited to the functions of Ombuds officer, departmental appeals, collective bargaining, and complaints handled by the Dean of Diversity and Compliance.