

Academic Freedom Policy

Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Policy Administrator.

Effective Date:	August 27, 2018	Cross Reference:	Internal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copyright – Fair Dealing Policy • College Involvement in Commercialization Policy • Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans Policy • Integrity in Research Activity Policy • Intellectual Property and Ownership Policy • Research Activities Policy • Research or Teaching Involving Animals Policy External <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Secondary Learning Act (http://www.qp.alberta.ca/++documents/Acts/p19p5.pdf)
Policy Owner:	Vice President Academic	Appendices:	
Policy Administrator:	Director, Quality Assurance and Research Services		
Approver:	Executive Committee		
Review Schedule:	Every 3 years		

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Keyano College (hereinafter also referred to as “the College”) is committed to upholding and preserving principles of academic freedom as outlined in this policy.
- 1.2. All College faculty, staff, and students, as well as contractors, consultants, clients, and volunteers shall support and protect this fundamental principle and work collaboratively to provide an environment of tolerance and mutual respect.
- 1.3. All College Faculty should be able to undertake scholarly research, perform teaching and learning activities, explore and produce creative work, engage in community service, and hold academic discussion, within parameters established by College policies and procedures, and all applicable legislation.
- 1.4. Academic freedom must be exercised responsibly and does not exempt any member of the College from his/her obligations or duties inherent in the roles associated with the teaching and learning process or any provincial or federal policies and legislation.
- 1.5. College employees must make every effort when speaking or writing as citizens to ensure it does not appear they are representing the College on matters of public interest.

2. Background

- 2.1. This document, “Academic Freedom Policy”, sets out the policy and regulations governing academic freedom at the College.
- 2.2. Policy development included a review of existing academic freedom policies and procedures from Canadian colleges and universities with a focus on similar institutions.

3. Policy Objective

- 3.1. The purpose of this policy is to outline the College’s position on academic freedom and to identify the rights and responsibilities of faculty, staff, and students, as well as contractors, consultants, clients, and volunteers with respect to academic freedom.

4. Scope

- 4.1. This policy applies to all faculty, staff, and students at the College, as well as contractors, consultants, clients, and volunteers.

5. Definitions

- 5.1. **Academic Freedom** is the freedom to teach, conduct research, engage in scholarly activity, disseminate and publish results of that research, produce, and perform creative works, and engage in service to the institution and community without being subject to undue interference.
- 5.2. **Academic Responsibility** includes adherence to academic policies that are created and advanced by members of the academic community as part of that community’s process of academic self-government. Academic Freedom and Academic Responsibility include the duty to respect the rights of others, to exercise that freedom in a reasonable and responsible manner, and to respect the academic objectives of the institution.
- 5.3. **Professional service** refers to work done in support of one’s academic discipline and includes, but is not limited to, activities such as serving on committees and boards of professional organizations, organizing or chairing sessions at national or international meetings, or editing or reading manuscripts for professional journals.

6. Guiding Principles

- 6.1. Academic freedom carries with it the responsibility to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to carry out academic activities on the basis of an honest search for knowledge, and in accordance with College policies, procedures, and ethical guidelines.
- 6.2. All members of the College community have an obligation to use academic freedom in a respectful and responsible manner. It is based on mutual respect for other members of the Keyano community.

- 6.3. Academic freedom does not imply rights greater than those granted by applicable laws and regulations.
- 6.4. Academic freedom does not relieve members of the College community from their obligations or duties inherent in their roles at Keyano.
- 6.5. As no freedom is absolute and no right is unlimited, those who claim the right to academic freedom also accept the concomitant responsibilities of being open-minded, respectful, ethical, and honest.
- 6.6. Faculty and staff members have the right to act and speak in their capacities as public citizens without institutional censorship and/or reprisal, subject to the obligations inherent in the Academic Freedom Policy.
- 6.7. Faculty and staff members have the right to participate in the selection of course materials, course content, and course methodology. They have a right to teach and discuss in their classes any aspect of a topic pertinent to the understanding of the subject matter of the course which they are teaching. Faculty members have an associated responsibility to deliver their courses in a manner consistent with the course outlines established by the program responsible for delivering that course, and in accordance with the expectations established through the performance planning review process and subject to the Academic Freedom Policy.
- 6.8. Students have the right to courteously raise for discussion in a class any aspect of a topic which they feel is pertinent to the understanding of the subject matter being addressed in that class.
- 6.9. Students have the right to assemble on campus for the purpose of civil discussion of any topic or issue.
- 6.10. All members of the College community have the freedom to pursue and participate in internal and external institutional and professional service, subject to the obligations or duties inherent in their roles and positions at Keyano.
- 6.11. The College is not accountable for infringements of academic freedom originating beyond the College's control, including, but not limited to, legislation. Keyano is also not accountable for infringements of academic freedom by members of the Keyano community that occur without the College's knowledge and express or implied concurrence.

7. Roles & Responsibilities

STAKEHOLDER	RESPONSIBILITIES
Executive Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve and formally support this policy.
Vice President Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and formally support this policy.
Deans' Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain this policy. • Take proactive steps to reinforce compliance with this policy by all stakeholders.
Managers, Supervisors, or Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the terms of this policy to faculty, staff and students, as well as contractors, consultants, clients, and volunteers and assist users to understand the requirements of this policy. • Ensure that all stakeholders follow the requirements of this policy.

Procurement and Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the guidelines provided in this policy when performing due diligence and assessment of the risks related to intellectual property for any new contracts with third parties. Ensure that responsibilities and obligations of each party to the contractual relationship are outlined in the contract executed between the College and the contractor/sub-contractor.
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure each new employee has read and signed off understood this policy upon the first 7 days of employment with the College. Support all employees in the understanding of the requirements of this policy.
All users (faculty, staff, students, and third parties)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with the requirements of this policy as applicable to them at all times. Report all non-compliance instances with this policy (observed or suspected) to the Vice President Academic as soon as possible.

8. Policy Management

Policy Title:	Academic Freedom Policy
Approval Date:	July 15, 2018
Effective Date:	August 27, 2018
Historical Review Dates:	February, 2020
Next Review Date:	February, 2023
Related Legislation:	Post-Secondary Learning Act http://www.qp.alberta.ca/++documents/Acts/p19p5.pdf
Supersedes Policies:	N/A
Monitoring/Frequency:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of compliance activities will be reviewed at a minimum, once a year.
Policy Owner:	Vice President Academic
Policy Administrator:	Director, Quality Assurance and Research Services
Policy Coordinator:	Executive Assistant, Academic