

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Series 600

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION TEACHING CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES No. 603.9R1

A "controversial issue" is a topic of significant academic inquiry about which substantial groups of the citizens of this community, state, or 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 factual bases underlying the controversy.

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

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor to protect the right 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 relationships with the teacher.

It shall be the responsibility of the instructor 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 the students they have the right to disagree with opinions of others but they also have the responsibility to base the disagreement on facts and to respect the right of others to hold conflicting opinions.

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