The educational program at Tallahassee Community College shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of academic freedom of inquiry within the framework of responsibility.

Each faculty member is entitled to freedom in discussing the faculty member’s subject in the classroom, when conducting academic research, or when writing for publication. The faculty member should not introduce controversial matter into teaching which has no relation to the subject.

In discussing controversial issues related to the subject matter, however, the faculty member should adhere to the following:

1. The faculty member should make every attempt to understand thoroughly the significant facts and opinions on all sides of the issue.

2. The faculty member should help students find, analyze, and interpret these facts.

3. The faculty member should direct tactfully an intelligent, emotionally controlled discussion exemplifying good discussion techniques.

4. The faculty member should endeavor to maintain an open-minded, unprejudiced attitude toward all such issues.
5. The faculty member should encourage the development and utilization of creative and critical thinking in students and guide them to seek the truth through every available method whenever possible.

6. As a citizen in the community, the faculty member should be free from any institutional control. However, the faculty member should remember that the public may judge the teaching profession and the College by what the faculty member writes or says. Therefore, the faculty member should clearly state that the information may not necessarily represent the point of view of the College.

7. In the event that classroom material of a controversial or sensitive nature is called into question, the faculty member should be prepared to demonstrate the relationship of such material to the course objectives. The faculty member should also be aware of community standards regarding obscenity and pornography and of the legal ramifications involved.