

### **Statement on Professional Ethics**

- I. Guided by a conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, professors recognize and accept certain special responsibilities. As scholars, they have a primary responsibility to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end they strive to develop and improve their scholarly competence, practicing critical self-discipline, judgement and intellectual honesty at all times. Although they may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise freedom of inquiry.
- II. As teachers, professors encourage the free pursuit of learning, holding before their students the highest of scholarly standards. They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assure that their evaluation of students reflects the students' true merit. Professors respect all students as individuals. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student, and adhere to the role of intellectual guide and counselor. They avoid any exploitation of students for private advantage. They acknowledge significant assistance from them, and protect their academic freedom.
- III. As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. Professors respect and defend the free inquiry of their associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, they show respect for the opinions of others. They acknowledge their academic debts and strive to be objective in their professional judgment of colleagues. They accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution.
- IV. As members of their institution, professors seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although they observe the regulations of the institution, provided these do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain the right to criticize and seek revision. They determine the amount and character of the work they do outside their institution with due regard to their responsibilities within it. When considering the interruption or termination of their services, professors recognize the effect of their decision upon the institution and give due notice of their intentions.
- V. As members of their community, professors have the rights and obligations of all citizens. They measure these obligations in the light of responsibilities to subject, students, profession and institution. When they speak or act as private citizens, they avoid creating the impression that they are speaking or acting for the college or university. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, professors have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.