

ACADEMIC FREEDOM, RESPONSIBILITY, AND TENURE(i)

Approved by the UT Board of Trustees at its meeting of 18 June 1998 (Revised 19 June 2003, 16 March 2006)

The Board of Trustees is constituted by statute of the State of Tennessee as the governing body of The University of Tennessee, with complete and full authority over the organization and administration of The University(ii) and its constituent parts and over the granting of tenure to members of the faculty.

The principal mission of The University is the discovery and dissemination of truth through teaching, research and service.(iii) The Board recognizes that freedom of inquiry and expression is indispensable for this purpose and believes that it and the administration and faculty should cooperate to that end. In The University's program of teaching, research and service, it is essential that the Board, administration and faculty cooperate voluntarily, each contributing freely, according to his or her qualifications, in a mutually beneficial exchange of information and ideas.

The following statement is intended to record the policy and procedures of The University with respect to academic freedom, responsibility, and tenure. The Board considers these principles compatible with its statutory authority and responsibilities and the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech and inquiry to each citizen of the United States.

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1. This is a compilation and restatement of policies and procedures adopted by vote of the Board of Trustees on November 4, 1955; June 17, 1971; October 20, 1978; by periodic approval of Faculty Handbook provisions for each University of Tennessee campus; and by revisions recommended by the Board's AY 1997-98 special Tenure Committee and its Faculty Tenure Advisory Committee, and approved by the Board on 18 June 1998; and by revisions approved by the Board on 19 June 2003; and by revisions approved by the Board on 16 March 2006.
 2. Many terms throughout this document are used generically. "The University" refers to The University of Tennessee System. "Campus" refers

to the Knoxville campus, the Health Science Center, the UT Institute of Agriculture, the UT Space Institute, UT at Chattanooga, and UT at Martin. "Chancellor" refers to the Chancellor or Vice President of the unit.

"Department" refers to the smallest academic unit (in some cases a "college," "school," or "division"); similarly, "department head" refers to "chair," "director," or "Dean" as appropriate. "Faculty Senate" refers to the campus governance body of elected faculty members and "Faculty Senate Executive Committee" refers to that committee or its comparable group of elected Senate officers. "Chief Academic Officer" refers to the campus provost, academic vice chancellor, or, Dean, etc. "Bylaws" includes written policies, procedures, standards, rules, guidelines, etc.

3. The word "teaching" includes the set of instructional activities that normally occurs in classrooms, laboratories, clinical sites, and in directed study, etc; "research" includes both scholarly investigation and the creation of works of art related to a faculty member's academic appointment; "service" includes public service, institutional service, and other assigned professional/clinical service responsibilities.