

Resolved: *that the Syracuse University Senate affirms and adopts the Centennial Declaration of the American Association of University Professors as part of Syracuse University's guiding principles.*

WHY: At a time in which there is concern among faculty nationwide that Academic Freedom and Shared Governance are under threat, it is important to reflect on our shared principles and what they mean. We hope and expect all Syracuse University community members will be mindful of these principles in deliberations and decision making at all levels of governance so that we can become, as the declaration's provisions state, an institution that is "built on the full and open participation of diverse faculty and students." We urge all faculty, students, administrators, staff, and the Board of Trustees to recognize in their actions that the University is a "public good" and that meaningful "shared governance is a cornerstone" of ensuring that we live up to that high and demanding charge. We draw particular attention to #10, since the Trustees appear to misunderstand shared governance and faculty prerogatives.

AAUP Centennial Declaration

Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition.

-1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure

1. The university is a public good, not a private profit-making institution, and corporations or business interests should not dictate teaching or research agendas.
2. The life of a university should reflect all dimensions of human endeavor and be built on the full and open participation of diverse faculty and students.
3. The main aims of teaching are the dissemination of knowledge and the fostering of creativity; learning is not just about developing "job skills".
4. The main aim of research is to create new knowledge, and academic freedom is essential for the free search for truth and its free expression. Research is not just about enhancing the profit margins of corporations.
5. After teaching and research, the third mission of universities is about engaging communities and addressing social disadvantage, and not just about "enterprise engagement" or "economic development".
6. All who work at universities are entitled to a dignified and collegial workplace free of surveillance and authoritarian dictates and to resist the degradation of their working conditions.

7. Students are the next generation of enlightened and humane citizens, not just revenue streams or the bearers of collateral for unsustainable debt loads.
8. Information and communication technologies are welcome tools for teaching and research but should not be used to impoverish the quality of education or reduce faculty-student contact time.
9. University management should resist public education cutbacks and reverse the multiplying of senior management posts, many of which are unnecessary.
10. Faculty shared governance is the cornerstone of any university that values teaching and research. The authority of faculty in hiring decisions, promotions, and curricular matters should not be compromised by donors, trustees, or administrators. Similarly, the faculty voice in budgeting, institutional planning, and other internal operations should not be marginalized.

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