

Attachment 3
Academic Freedom Statement
Optional Syllabus Language
(<http://www.k-state.edu/provost/resources/teaching/course.html>)

Academic Freedom Statement

Kansas State University is a community of students, faculty, and staff who work together to discover new knowledge, create new ideas, and share the results of their scholarly inquiry with the wider public. Although new ideas or research results may be controversial or challenge established views, the health and growth of any society requires frank intellectual exchange. Academic freedom protects this type of free exchange and is thus essential to any university's mission.

Moreover, academic freedom supports collaborative work in the pursuit of truth and the dissemination of knowledge in an environment of inquiry, respectful debate, and professionalism. Academic freedom is not limited to the classroom or to scientific and scholarly research, but extends to the life of the university as well as to larger social and political questions. It is the right and responsibility of the university community to engage with such issues.

Student Senate Resolution – For information

RESOLUTION 14/15/29

RECOMMENDATION OF OPTIONAL ACADEMIC

FREEDOM STATEMENT FOR ALL COURSE SYLLABI

BY: Reagan Kays, Cody Kennedy and Stephen Kucera

WHEREAS, Academic freedom is crucial to the long-term success of higher education and quality education offered to students;

WHEREAS, In response to the recent discussion, on campus and nationwide, about academic freedom, Faculty Senate Past President Julia Keen convened a working group late last semester to draft a statement outlining the importance of academic freedom;

WHEREAS, It was hoped that this statement, stressing the essential nature of academic freedom for both students and faculty members, could be included in class syllabi at Kansas State University;

WHEREAS, This working group included Elizabeth Dodd, Reagan Kays, Erica Ruscio, Stephen Kucera, Jim Hamilton, David Stone, Andrew Hurtig and Mickey Ransom;

WHEREAS, This working group completed their assignment during the summer of 2014;

WHEREAS, The academic freedom statement is as follows:

Kansas State University is a community of students, faculty and staff who work together to discover new knowledge, create new ideas and share the results of their scholarly inquiry with the wider public. Although new ideas or research results may be controversial or challenge established views, the health and growth of any society requires frank intellectual exchange. Academic freedom protects this type of free exchange and is thus essential to any university's mission.

Moreover, academic freedom supports collaborative work in the pursuit of truth and the dissemination of knowledge in an environment of inquiry, respectful debate and professionalism. Academic freedom is not limited to the classroom or to scientific and scholarly research, but extends to the life of the university as well as to larger social and political questions. It is the right and responsibility of the university community to engage with such issues.;

WHEREAS, Provost and Senior Vice President April Mason and President Kirk Schulz have voiced strong support for academic freedom and its necessity for the K-State mission and pursuit of K-State 2025;

WHEREAS, Pursuant to both faculty senate leadership and Provost and Senior Vice President Mason's support, this statement was made available for optional inclusion in syllabi for the 2014-2015 academic year;

WHEREAS, We are requesting that these paragraphs be added indefinitely to the provost's webpage that contains other statements for widespread inclusion, both optional and mandatory, in K-State course syllabi; and

WHEREAS, We believe shared governance and the campus dialogue this statement embodies are best served by joint support from both student senate and faculty senate.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

SECTION 1. The Kansas State University Student Governing Association recommends that the academic freedom statement be indefinitely added to the list of optional additions for course syllabi starting in the fall of 2015.

SECTION 2. Upon passage by the student senate and signature of the student body president, a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Kirk Schulz, president; April Mason, provost and senior vice president; Elizabeth Dodd, university distinguished professor of English; Jim Hamilton, professor of philosophy; David Stone; professor of history; Mickey Ranson, professor of agronomy; Julia Keen, faculty senate past president; Reagan Kays, student body president; Erica Ruscio; Andy Hurtig; and Stephen Kucera.