Section 11.14 Academic Freedom

- A. All faculty members are entitled to academic freedom regardless of their tenure status. <u>The</u> Administration guarantees academic freedom by making sure that all faculty members are protected from the threats of economic deprivation and dismissal based on the responsible exercise of academic freedom. Faculty may address perceived threats to academic freedom to the Vice President of Academic Affairs and, if necessary, to the Director of Equity and Diversity. The faculty subscribe to this statement of academic freedom with the understanding that academic freedom neither implies the granting of license nor releases anyone of his or her contractual and legal duties. Additionally, responsible exercise of academic freedom requires adherence to applicable LSSC Procedures.
- B. It is the responsibility of each faculty member to ensure appropriate content of courses taught, to outline course requirements in the syllabi to be provided to each student, to participate in meaningful assessment of student learning outcomes, and to present course materials and information objectively. Faculty members must be free of any arbitrary limitations on the study, investigation, presentation, or interpretation of facts and ideas in any branch of learning consistent with the standards and practices of academic inquiry.
- C. A faculty member is entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to adequate performance of other academic duties.
- D. A faculty member is entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing any academic subject, in devising and selecting teaching strategies and educational materials, and in using them to present any academic subject. However, he or she shall not introduce a controversial matter that has no relation to an academic subject.
- E.B. Moreover, it is understood that faculty members are employees of a public

educational institution as well as being citizens and members of a learned profession. When a faculty member speaks or writes as a citizen, he or she is expected recognize the special position in the community he or she holds as an employee of Lake-Sumter State College in that the public may judge both the faculty member's institution and profession by his or her statements. Therefore, the faculty member shall strive to be accurate, to exercise appropriate restraint, to show respect for the opinions of others and in the expression of personal opinions to indicate that he or she is not a spokesperson for Lake Sumter State College. However, a faculty member speaking or writing as a citizen shall be free from any form of institutional censorship or discipline.