

UTSA Faculty Senate Resolution on Academic Freedom and Tenure
May 2023

WHEREAS the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) 1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure states that “[Academic](#) freedom is the indispensable requisite for unfettered teaching and research in institutions of higher education”;

WHEREAS the AAUP states that such academic freedom is dependent on tenure: [Tenure](#) is a means to certain ends; specifically: “(1) freedom of teaching and research and of extramural activities, and (2) a sufficient degree of economic security to make the profession attractive to men and women of ability. Freedom and economic security, hence, tenure, are indispensable to the success of an institution in fulfilling its obligations to its students and to society”;

WHEREAS [Tenure protects Faculty](#) in their right to teach their scholarly opinions by granting job security; “After the expiration of a probationary period, teachers or investigators should have permanent or continuous tenure, and their service should be terminated only for adequate cause, except in the case of retirement for age, or under extraordinary circumstances because of financial exigencies”;

WHEREAS the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System upholds the entitlement of Faculty to academic freedom in their research and in the classroom ([Rule 31004](#));

WHEREAS the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System [voted to adopt](#) the Chicago Statement on Free Speech in November 2022 “The Board of Regents’ adoption of the Chicago Statement on Free Speech underscores The University of Texas System’s long-standing commitment to freedom of speech and expression on our campuses in a manner that promotes open inquiry, provides transparency and upholds the rule of law. We will always value and embrace the debate of competing ideas and principles”;

WHEREAS The University of Texas at San Antonio states that under [Professional rights](#) “Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, and they are entitled to freedom in the classroom, in accordance with the Constitutional right to free speech” (see also [HoP 2.46](#));

WHEREAS as a Carnegie [R1](#) institution, UTSA maintains that “standards for scholarly achievement and academic excellence and the attendant decisions concerning the awarding of tenure to faculty are commensurate with this achievement of R1”;

Resolutions

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Texas at San Antonio Faculty Senate affirms the right to academic freedom and Constitutional free speech as fundamental to teaching and research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Texas at San Antonio Faculty Senate upholds the need for tenure as fundamental to academic freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Texas at San Antonio Faculty Senate therefore resolutely rejects any erosion of tenure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Texas at San Antonio Faculty Senate resolutely rejects any erosion of academic freedom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Texas at San Antonio Faculty Senate affirms the need for tenure as fundamental to research excellence befitting a Carnegie R1 university.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Texas at San Antonio Faculty Senate calls upon the UTSA leadership to continue supporting and facilitating the protections of tenure as integral to academic freedom.