

CBA Tip: *Academic Freedom*

The Faculty Assembly successfully negotiated new, powerful language on Academic Freedom that now lives in our Collective Bargaining Agreement vs. simply a Board Policy. Article L.1.0-L.1.5 details our Academic Freedom rights and responsibilities. It clearly states that "In accordance with the approved curriculum and the course outline of record, faculty members have the principal right and responsibility to determine the methods of instruction, pedagogical approaches, the planning and presentation of course materials through the various modalities offered, the fair and equitable methods of assessment, and the determination of student grades." Additionally, "Faculty have the right to study, investigate, present, interpret, or discuss the relevant facts and ideas within the assigned curriculum and course outline of record." These two powerful sentences protect faculty from censorship, and they safeguard us from political or institutional pressures, ensuring that academic inquiry remains unbiased and objective. Please review the complete Article which details our rights to participate in governance, exercise freedom of expression, and respect free inquiry of our colleagues.