



APS JUSTIFICATION

Policy Title: Independent Teaching, Independent Scholarly/Creative Work, and Academic Freedom

APS Number: 1043

APS Functional Area: **ACADEMIC/RESEARCH**

Date Submitted:	October 11, 2024
Proposed Action:	Revision
Brief Description:	This policy defines independent teaching and independent scholarly/creative work relative to academic freedom.
Desired Effective Date:	January 1, 2026
Responsible University Officer:	Vice President for Academic Affairs
Responsible Office:	Office of Academic Affairs
Policy Contact:	Office of Academic Affairs
Applies to:	All campuses

Reason for Policy: Defines independent teaching and independent scholarly/creative work, referenced in Article 5.B.2(B) of Regent Law.

I. REASON FOR PROPOSED ACTION

This APS was put in place to clarify the meaning of independent teaching and independent scholarly/creative work, relative to academic freedom, as referenced in Article 5.B.2(B) of Regent Law. Both the law and associated regent policy 5.B on academic freedom were reviewed in the 2024-25 regent review cycle. APS 1043 is associated with both regent law and policy and consequently is under review for consistency with law and policy.

Minor updates are proposed to APS 1043. Reference to “academic freedom” has been added to the policy title and to the brief description to clearly connect the focus of this APS to academic freedom. Also, reference to “independent” scholarly/creative work has been added to ensure clarity related to both independent teaching and independent scholarly/creative work relative to academic freedom. (Updated in Draft 1; 9/22/25)

II. LEAD STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE POLICY REVIEW

- Provosts
- Faculty Council and the Educational Policy and University Standards (EPUS) Committee
- University Counsel

III. LEGAL REVIEW

A. Do you think legal review would be required for these proposed changes? **No**

1. If no, please explain: **Suggested changes are minor. Even though legal review was not required, we still requested that University Counsel review changes to APS 1043.**
2. If yes, what is your plan to get the legal review?

B. Date legal review completed: **August 2024**

C. Person completing legal review: **Julie Steeler**

IV. FISCAL REVIEW

Are there any financial (human resources, technology, operations, training, etc.) or other resource impacts of implementing this policy (e.g., cost savings, start-up costs, additional time for faculty or staff, new systems, or software)? **No.**

If yes, please explain: