

**University Senate**

**Proposed: February 2, 2024**

**Adopted:**

**Resolution Reconfirming Our Commitment to the Principles of**

to teach, conduct and publish research, and speak and write both on campus and off, and that are crucial to ensuring our students receive the highest quality education possible; and,

6. Whereas ô We, the Columbia University Senate, believe that the protections of academic freedom allow and oblige all faculty to pursue their teaching, research and clinical endeavors and communicate to a wider public in ways that strengthen our society and affirm the social importance of higher education; and,
7. Whereas ô We, the Columbia University Senate, are committed to the rights and responsibilities of faculty as stewards of the institution, in the interest of its long-term well-being, and its capacity to be of benefit to its students, its immediate community, and the world at large;
8. Therefore, be it resolved that the Columbia University Senate is committed to the following principles of academic freedom and shared governance:
  - a. Academic activities at Columbia are subject to review set by normal institutional processes in accordance with best professional practice; and
  - b. Faculty speech and expression, including in the press and via social media, are subject to the right of Columbia University to study, research, to teach, and to express their own views on matters of public concern, provided that such expression does not constitute a violation of the University's policies regarding individual privacy, or false defamation; and
  - c. The University and its leaders should refrain from taking political positions in their institutional capacity, either as explicit statements or as the basis of policy, except in the rare case when the University has a compelling institutional interest, such as a legal obligation, that requires it to do so; and
  - d. Both principles of academic freedom and obligations of institutional stewardship permit inquiry into matters of public concern; and
  - e. University policy in general should arise from mechanisms of shared governance, and should not be set by, or in deference to, entities external to the institution or those mechanisms; and,
  - f. Matters of university policy that touch on or may benefit from areas of academic expertise should be informed by that expertise, and consultative bodies should be appointed with deference to the expertise of faculty in those areas; and
  - g. The University Senate, as the representative body of all RI