SACS Comprehensive Standard 3.7.4

3.7.4 - Academic Freedom

The institution ensures adequate procedures for safeguarding and protecting academic freedom.

Judgment of Compliance

In Compliance

Statement of Rationale for Judgment of Compliance

Chipola College recognizes the vital role of academic freedom in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. The Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty collectively recognize the importance of protecting the academic freedom of faculty in the full and forthright exchange of ideas. The college has had no instances involving violations of academic freedom.

The Chipola College position on academic freedom is set forth as follows in the Chipola College Agreement Between the District Board of Trustees and the Chipola Faculty Association:

4.10 Academic Freedom

It is the policy of the Public Employer and the Association to maintain and encourage academic freedom. In the exercise of this freedom, the faculty shall be free to discuss fully his or her own subjects frankly and forthrightly and to engage freely in scholarly and creative activity and publish the results. Academic freedom is accompanied by the corresponding responsibility to provide objective and skillful exposition of one's own subjects and to be mindful of the community and professional standards.

Each faculty member shall encourage the student to study varying points of view and respect the student's right to form his/her judgment.

In addition, Chipola College is concerned with and provides for the academic freedom of students. The policy of the college regarding students' rights relating
to academic freedom is expressly set out in the 2006-2007 College Student Handbook/Planner as follows:

"Freedom of Inquiry and Expression"—Students may examine and discuss questions of interest to them and express opinions. This right must be exercised in a manner that does not interfere with the same rights and freedoms of others. Freedom of expression carries with it the responsibility for seeing that the essential order of the College is preserved."

"Protection of Freedom of Expression"—Students are free to take reasonable exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion; however, they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Student grades are based on academic achievement and not on opinions expressed by students in or outside of class" ([2]).

Both faculty and students have recourse through official grievance and appeals processes if they believe their rights to academic freedom have been violated. The faculty grievance rights are described in “Article IX-Grievance Procedures and Arbitration” ([3]) of the faculty contract.

Students’ rights are described in “Student Grievance Procedure” ([4]) in the 2006-2007 Student Handbook/Planner.

Documentation:

[1] CFA Contract: Section 4.10 Academic Freedom