

BINM
Statement on Professional Ethics
For Instructors & Faculty

January 17, 2003

Various groups and associations consisting of members of the academic profession have long recognized and affirmed that faculty in institutes of higher learning have certain special responsibilities. The following guidelines from the American Association of University Professors, *Statement on Professional Ethics*, 1987, is excerpted and revised slightly to suit the specific needs of BINM.

The Statement:

1. The primary responsibility of faculty members to their subject is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end, instructors strive to develop and improve their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty.
2. Teachers encourage the active pursuit of learning in their students, as well as encouraging them to be critical thinkers with the capacity for life-long learning. Instructors demonstrate respect for students as individuals and adhere to their proper roles as intellectual guides and counselors. Teachers make every reasonable attempt to foster honest academic conduct and to ensure that their evaluations of students reflect each student's true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student and they avoid any exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students. Faculty members acknowledge significant academic or scholarly assistance from students and they protect their students' academic freedom.
3. Instructors respect and defend the free inquiry of their colleagues and do not discriminate against or harass their associates. In the exchange of criticism and ideas, faculty members show due respect for the opinions of others, even while disagreeing. Instructors acknowledge academic debt. Faculty members accept their share of responsibilities in the governance of the Institute and the development and critical review of the curriculum.
4. As part of an academic institution, faculty members seek to be effective teachers and scholars. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, instructors recognize the effect of their decision upon the program of study and give due notice of their intentions.
5. Instructors have the same rights and obligations of other citizens. They measure the urgency of these obligations in the light of their responsibilities to their subject, to their students, to their profession and to their institution. When they speak or act as private citizens, they avoid creating the impression of speaking or acting for their institution. Teachers at an institute of higher learning have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom.