



**HLC: 22 Days and Counting...Did You Know?  
October 27, 2013**

**Did you know that CMU considers the primary academic responsibility of faculty to be “to seek and to state the truth as they understand it” and that survey results indicate that students perceive a high level of commitment to free expression?**

***Self-Study Report, Evidence Item 2D-1: The institution is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.*** In its statement of institutional values, CMU's 2011 Strategic Plan makes it clear that the University values and supports a culture “committed to integrity and academic and intellectual freedom.” The Board endorses the principle of academic freedom in the Trustees Policy Manual and recognizes the freedom of faculty to fully discuss academic subjects, engage in research, and write or speak as citizens without fear of institutional censorship or discipline (p.38). The Board further notes that academic freedom is extended to all faculty regardless of tenure status.

In its Professional Personnel Employment Handbook (PPHE), the University outlines a series of professional personnel responsibilities to students. Those responsibilities identify specific statements that support and protect the academic freedom of CMU students... Faculty encourage the “free pursuit of learning by students, protect their academic freedom and adhere to a professional’s proper role as an intellectual guide and counselor.” Further, the faculty member's:

*primary academic responsibility is to seek and to state the truth as they understand it. To this end, professional personnel strive to develop and improve their competence as teachers and scholars, exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending and transmitting knowledge, and practice intellectual honesty. (PPEH, p. XII-1).*

Students attending CMU who completed the 2012 Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory (p. 17, item 67) perceived the campus to be committed to free expression as well. Their perceptions produced an average of 5.74 (with 7 being the highest level of agreement) for the statement "Freedom of expression is protected on campus." This score was significantly higher than the average of 5.50 for the national comparison group.

**To learn more:**

- Click [here](#) to read more of the PDF version of the report.
- Click [here](#) to read the related core-component in the web-version of the report.

Please note that in the Self-Study Report, maroon text indicates the HLC's criteria for accreditation, while CMU's response is in black text, with links to supporting documentation identified by blue text (available only in web-version of the report in MAVzone).