II. In the Classroom

Students are expected to adhere to the standards and requirements delineated by the faculty person of record. Students are entitled to fair and civil treatment.

A. Protection of Freedom of Expression
Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled.

B. Protection against Improper Academic Evaluation
Students should have protection through orderly procedures against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. At the same time, they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled.

C. Protection Against Improper Disclosure
Information about student views, beliefs and political associations that professors acquire in the course of their work as instructors, advisors and counselors should be considered confidential. Protection against improper disclosure is a serious professional obligation. Judgments of ability and character may be provided under appropriate circumstances, normally with the knowledge and consent of the student.

III. Student Affairs

A. Student Organizations
Students bring to the campus a variety of interests previously acquired and will develop many new interests as members of the campus community. They should be free to organize and join associations to promote their common interests.

Members of the faculty serve the college community when they accept the responsibility to advise and consult with student organizations; they do not have the authority to control the policy of such organizations. Student organizations are required to submit a statement of purpose, constitution and a proposed list of officers and members to the Division of Student Affairs and go through an approval process and an organization training session in order to become eligible for University registration.

Campus organizations, including those affiliated with an extramural organization, should be open to all
students without respect to race, creed or national origin.

B. Freedom of Inquiry and Expression
Students and student organizations should be free to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. Expression may be subjected to reasonable regulations of time, place, number of persons, and form under established regulations. They should be free to support causes by lawful and orderly means that do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the institution and that do not interfere with the rights of others. At the same time, it should be made clear to the academic and larger community that in their public expressions or demonstrations, students or organizations speak only for themselves.

Students should be allowed to invite and to hear any person of their own choosing subject to routine procedures provided for off-campus speakers. These procedures should be designed only to assure that there is orderly scheduling of facilities and adequate preparation for the event, that the occasion is conducted in a manner appropriate to an academic community, and that the safety of individuals, the University and the community are not endangered. While the University is properly concerned with the prevention of unlawful conduct, the institutional control of campus facilities should not be used as a device for censorship of ideas. It should be made clear to the academic and larger community that sponsorship of guest speakers does not necessarily imply approval or endorsement of the views expressed, either by the sponsoring group or the institution.

C. Student Participation in Institutional Government
As constituents of the academic community, students should be free, individually and collectively, to express their views on issues of general interest to the student body. The student body should have clearly defined means to participate in the formulation and application of institutional policy affecting academic and student affairs. The role of the student government and both its general and specific responsibilities should be made explicit, and the student government within the areas of its jurisdiction should be reviewed only through orderly and prescribed procedures. The University should provide sufficient governing freedom and sufficient financial autonomy for the student government to maintain its integrity of purpose as elected representatives of the student body.

D. Student Publications
Student publications and the student press are a valuable aid in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and of intellectual exploration on campus. They are means of bringing student concerns to the attention of the faculty and the institutional authorities and of formulating student opinions on various issues on the campus and in the world at large.

In the delegation of editorial responsibility to the students, the University must provide sufficient editorial freedom and sufficient financial autonomy for the student publications to maintain their integrity of purpose as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in an academic community.

Institutional authorities, in consultation with students and faculty, have a responsibility to provide written clarification of the role of the student publications or the standards to be used in their evaluation, and the limitations on external control of their operation. At the same time, the editorial freedom of student editors and managers entails corollary responsibilities to allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and the techniques of harassment and innuendo. As safeguards for the editorial freedom of student publications the following provisions are necessary:

The student press should be free of censorship and advance approval of copy, and its editors and managers should be free to develop their own editorial and news coverage.

Editors and managers of student publications should be protected from arbitrary suspension and removal because of student, faculty, administrative or public disapproval of editorial policy or content. Only for proper and stated causes should editors and managers be subject to removal and then by orderly and prescribed procedures. The agency responsible for the appointment of editors and managers should be the agency responsible for their removal.

All University-published and financed student publications should explicitly state on the editorial page that the opinions there expressed are not necessarily those of the University or the student body as a whole.

E. Access and Accommodations
Students with documented disabilities are considered and admitted in the same manner as all other students. Students with disabilities may request physical or academic accommodations, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To receive accommodations, students must complete an intake form, provide documentation that is appropriate and
current, and have a collaborative interview with a staff member in Disability Services. Some accommodations require significant pre-planning, so students should begin the intake process well in advance of the start of their first academic semester.

Documentation: Current documentation from a qualified physician or other licensed professional in a field related to the disability is required. Since each disability is unique, guidelines for what constitutes appropriate documentation for a particular disability are available. At a minimum, the documentation must address: verification of the disability, substantial functional limitations noted as a result of the disability, and recommendations for possible accommodations. Additional documentation to support a disability may be required.

For the collaborative interview, students should be prepared to discuss the impact of their disability in the academic environment, their history of accommodations and the accommodations being requested. This information, with the results of the documentation review, will help determine reasonable accommodations. When decisions are made regarding accommodations, accommodation letters are prepared for students to provide to their instructors. Students must request accommodation letters for each successive semester. For more information contact Disability Services at 503-5199.

IV. Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of South Carolina Upstate is committed to a policy of affirmative action/equal opportunity and nondiscrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, color, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, and sexual orientation. This commitment applies to all academic and non-academic personnel matters and to educational access for all persons including employees, prospective employees, students, prospective students, and other persons utilizing the University’s programs and facilities.

A. Discriminatory Harassment

Policy EOP 1.03

Harassment based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and sexual orientation is a form of discrimination in violation of federal and state law and University of South Carolina system policies. Discriminatory harassment includes conduct (oral, written, graphic, or physical) directed against any person or group of persons because of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability or veteran status that has the purpose or reasonably foreseeable effect of creating an offensive, demeaning, intimidating, or hostile environment for that person or group of persons. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, objectionable epithets, demeaning depictions or treatment, and threatened or actual abuse or harm. The University is committed to maintaining a harassment and discrimination-free environment for all faculty, staff and students and will not condone behavior between or among members of the campus community which creates an unacceptable educational or working environment.

B. Sexual Harassment Policy EOP 1.02

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University by threatening the careers, educational experiences, and well-being of all members of this community. It undermines the University’s deep commitment to the primacy of a reward system based purely on merit, intellectual excellence, and job performance. The University, however, is also committed to freedom of speech and to the liberty of academics to teach, publish, and profess matters that others may find offensive. The purpose of this policy is to define “sexual harassment” in both the University employment and academic contexts, to provide procedures for investigation of sexual harassment claims, and to ensure that violations are fully remedied, while also protecting the constitutional and academic rights of every member of this community.

Definition of Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment of employees or students at the University is defined as unwelcome sexual advance, requests for sexual favors, verbal or other expressive behaviors or physical conduct commonly understood to be of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Threats to make adverse employment or academic decision if another person refuses to engage in sexual activities.
- Demands that another person engage in sexual activities in order to obtain or retain employment or academic benefits.
- Promises, implied or direct, to give employment or academic benefits if another person engages in sexual activities.
- Unwelcome and unnecessary touching or sexually suggestive physical contact or threats to engage in such conduct.
- Indecent exposure.
- Invasion of sexual privacy.