

Individual Faculty Obligation to Meet Classes

Executive Order No. 79 & Attachment A - 9/26/69. (Executive Order No. 79 was drafted during a historical period in which the use of 'he' represented all persons.) The faculty has a specific and clear responsibility to protect the academic freedom of the students. This obligation is an acknowledged part of academic mores and has been restated by both the American Association of University Professors and the Academic Senate of the California State Colleges.

One aspect of the students' academic freedom is the right to pursue his course of studies in an uninterrupted manner and at an assigned time and place. The Professor has the right and responsibility to control his own classroom, including the content and techniques of instruction, so long as he does not diminish the rights of his students. Charged with the responsibility for a particular class, he has the obligation to meet that class to further the students' academic goals.

It is recognized, that from time to time, individual faculty members may decide that particular classes should be adjourned to enable the student to participate in appropriate guest lecturers, academic convocations, or special seminars. The faculty member must, in such circumstances, assure himself that such activity furthers the academic goals of the student in that particular class. He must be prepared to justify such dismissal, if called upon to do so. Dismissal of classes as a demonstration in support of particular social or political movements or goals does not fall in the above category. Such dismissal constitutes unwarranted and unprofessional interference with the academic freedom of the student, depriving him of his expected academic situation and forcing him to support political or social goals with which he may not sympathize.