

**IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (ISUPP)**

**Faculty Ethics**

**ISUPP 4120**

*POLICY INFORMATION*

**Policy Section:** *Academic Affairs*

**Policy Title:** *Faculty Ethics*

**Responsible Executive (RE):** *Executive Vice President and Provost*

**Sponsoring Organization (SO):** *Faculty Senate*

**Dates: Effective Date:** *May 2002*

**Revised:** *August 1, 2018*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

*Ethical Principles* are drawn primarily from the 1966 Statement on Professional Ethics and subsequent revisions of June 1987 and 2009 issued by the American Association of University Professors (<http://www.aaup.org/report/statement-professional-ethics>). They comprise ethical prescriptions affirming the highest professional ideals. They are aspirational in character, and represent objectives toward which faculty members should strive.

The following listing of faculty responsibilities and ethical principles is organized around the individual faculty member's relation to A) teaching and students, B) scholarship, C) the University, D) colleagues, and E) the community.

**II. POLICY STATEMENT**

Idaho State University and its faculty affirm their commitment to the following five principles of faculty ethics and to the University Policies and Procedures, Idaho State Board of Education policies, and state statutes that enforce them:

**A. Teaching and Students/Ethical Principles**

“As teachers, the professors\* encourage the free pursuit of learning of their students. They hold before them the best scholarly and ethical standards of their discipline. Professors demonstrate respect for students as individuals and adhere to their proper roles as intellectual guides and counselors. Professors make every reasonable effort 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. They avoid any exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students. They acknowledge significant academic or scholarly assistance from them. They protect their academic freedom” (AAUP Statement, 1966; Revised, 1987 and 2009).

The integrity of the faculty-student relationship is the foundation of the University's educational mission. This relationship vests considerable trust in the faculty member, who, in turn, bears authority and accountability as mentor, educator, and evaluator. The unequal institutional power inherent in this relationship heightens the vulnerability of the student and the potential for coercion. The pedagogical relationship between faculty member and student must be protected from influences or activities that can interfere with learning consistent with the goals and ideals of the University. Whenever a faculty member is responsible for academic supervision of a student, a financial or personal relationship (romantic or sexual nature) between them, even if consensual, is inappropriate. Any such relationship jeopardizes the integrity of the educational process.

B. Scholarship/Ethical Principles

“Professors, guided by a deep conviction of the worth and dignity of the advancement of knowledge, recognize the special responsibilities placed upon them. Their primary responsibility to their subject is to seek and to state the truth as they see it. To this end professors devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge. They practice intellectual honesty. Although professors may follow subsidiary interests, these interests must never seriously hamper or compromise their freedom of inquiry” (AAUP Statement, 1966; Revised, 1987 and 2009).

C. The University/Ethical Principles

“As a member of an academic institution, professors seek above all to be effective teachers and scholars. Although professors observe the stated regulations of the institution, provided the regulations do not contravene academic freedom, they maintain their right to criticize and seek revision. Professors give due regard to their paramount responsibilities within their institution in determining the amount and character of the work done outside it. When considering the interruption or termination of their service, professors recognize the effect of their decision upon the program of the institution and give due notice of their intentions” (AAUP Statement, 1966; Revised, 1987 and 2009).

D. Colleagues/Ethical Principles

“As colleagues, professors have obligations that derive from common membership in the community of scholars. Professors do not discriminate against or harass colleagues. They respect and defend the free inquiry of associates, even when it leads to findings and conclusions that differ from their own. Professors acknowledge academic debt and strive to be objective in their professional judgement of colleagues. Professors accept their share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of their institution” (AAUP Statement, 1966; Revised, 1987 and 2009).

E. The Community/Ethical Principles

“As members of their community, professors have the rights and obligations of other citizens. Professors 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 persons, they avoid creating the

impression of speaking or acting for their college or university. As citizens engaged in a profession that depends upon freedom for its health and integrity, professors have a particular obligation to promote conditions of free inquiry and to further public understanding of academic freedom” (AAUP Statement, 1966; Revised 1987; 2009).

### **III. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Office of Academic Affairs has the authority and responsibility to update and review this policy as necessary. It is expected that any suggested changes to this policy will also be addressed in collaboration with the Faculty Senate. The policy for Faculty Ethics applies to all ISU faculty.

### **IV. RELATED POLICIES**

In addition to the requirements set forth above, all faculty of Idaho State University (ISU or University) are also subject to the following policies:

A. Conflict of Interest and Ethical Conduct Policy of the Idaho State Board of Education, section II.Q (<https://boardofed.idaho.gov/board-policies-rules/board-policies/human-resources-policies-section-ii/conflict-of-interest-and-ethical-conduct-all-employees-ii-q/>);

B. Idaho ethics statutes applicable to public employees, as noted in the Idaho Ethics in Government Manual published by the Idaho Attorney General (<http://www.ag.idaho.gov/publications/legalManuals/EthicsInGovernment.pdf>);

C. ISU’s Code of Ethics and Conduct (<https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/general-counsel/Compliance-Code-of-Ethics-and-Conduct.pdf>);

D. Conflicts of Interest, ISUPP 10600 (<https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/isu-policies-and-procedures/governancex2flegal/OGC-Conflict-of-Interest-10600-8-11-17.pdf>);

E. ISUPP 7070 Financial Conflict of Interest in Sponsored Programs (<https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/isu-policies-and-procedures/research/7070-Conflict-of-Interest-in-Sponsored-Projects.pdf.pdf>).

F. ISUPP 7060 Misconduct in Research and Scholarship (<https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/isu-policies-and-procedures/research/7060-Misconduct-in-Research-and-Scholarship.pdf>); and

G. ISUPP 4040 Academic Freedom (<https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/isu-policies-and-procedures/academic-affairs/AA-Academic-Freedom-4040.pdf>).

\* The use of the word professor represents all faculty regardless of title or academic rank.