

## TCNJ GOVERNANCE MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Student and Campus Community

From: Steering Committee

Date: March 1, 2023

Re: **Charge to Review: Student Rights and Freedom Policy- 5-year cycle review**

**Background:** TCNJ reviews policies every five years. The [Student Rights and Freedom Policy](#) was last reviewed in 2017 and requires review.

**Charge:** Steering asks CSCC to review the Student Rights and Freedom Policy and update it if necessary. CSCC may review and decide no updates are necessary, if this is the case testimony will not be required.

**Testimony Tier:** *If testimony is deemed necessary by CSCC, Tier II:* The issue requires moderate testimony from the campus community. The assigned council or committee should consult with relevant individuals and groups in developing a preliminary recommendation including relevant stakeholder groups, including Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Academic Leaders, Deans and Assistant Deans, Student Affairs (Dean of Students), Student Government Executive Board, Staff Senate Executive Board, and General Counsel.

The completed preliminary recommendation should then be made available to and testimony should be solicited in the form of written feedback (through a survey and or e-mail) from the relevant stakeholder groups, including Faculty Senate, Academic Leaders, Deans and Assistant Deans, Student Affairs (Dean of Students), Student Government, Staff Senate and General Counsel. In the final recommendation, CSCC should note the stakeholder groups, number of persons responding, and summary of testimony collected.

**Timeline:** CSCC should make a Final Recommendation to Steering by **May 1, 2023**.

---

### TCNJ Governance Processes

*Step 1–Steering issues a charge*

*Step 2–Governance prepares a Preliminary Recommendation*

Once the appropriate standing committee or council has received the charge, it should start by collecting data needed to make a preliminary recommendation. It should receive input from affected individuals and all relevant stakeholder groups prior to making a preliminary recommendation. For issues that have broad implications or that affect a large number of individuals, initial testimony should be solicited from the campus community at large. For some issues, sufficient initial testimony may come from input through committee membership or

solicitation from targeted constituent groups. When, in the best judgment of the committee, adequate clarity of the principles contributing to the problem are known, a preliminary recommendation should be drafted and disseminated to the campus community.

*Step 3–The Relevant Stakeholders provide Testimony*

Once a preliminary recommendation has been completed, the standing committee or council should seek testimony from the campus community. The testimony should be gathered in accordance with the Testimony Tier (see below) assigned to the issue by Steering.

For issues that require public testimony from the campus community, the chair of the standing committee or council should approach the president of the appropriate representative bodies to schedule the next available time slot at a meeting of that body.

Testimony should be gathered in a way that allows stakeholders to weigh in fully on the issue. Members of the standing committee or council that wrote the preliminary recommendation should be present to hear and record the testimony.

*Step 4–Governance prepares a Final Recommendation*

Once the standing committee or council has received appropriate testimony, it should revise the preliminary recommendation into a final recommendation. Once the final recommendation is complete, the standing committee or council should use sound judgment to determine whether or not more public testimony is required. If, in its feedback to the original preliminary recommendation, a stakeholder representative body requests to review an issue again, the committee or council is bound to bring it back to that body. If a full calendar year has passed since the formal announcement of the preliminary recommendation, the committee must re-submit a preliminary recommendation to the campus community. When the committee or council has completed the final recommendation, it should forward it to the Steering Committee. The final recommendation should be accompanied by a cover memo that summarizes the initial charge, how testimony was gathered and the nature of that testimony, and how the committee responded to that testimony, including a description of how the preliminary recommendation evolved as a result of testimony.

*Step 5–Steering considers the Final Recommendation*

*Step 6–The Provost and/or President and Board consider the Final Recommendation*

*Step 7–Steering notifies the Campus Community Testimony*

*For a complete description of all steps and of the testimony tiers, see [Governance Structures and Processes, 2019 Revision](#), pages 23–27.*