



“THE BEST WAY TO DEFEND
ACADEMIC FREEDOM IS TO
EXERCISE IT.”

Alison Hearn

Chair, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, CAUT



*Declaration of Principles on Academic Freedom
and Academic Tenure*
AAUP 1915

“to impart the results of their own and of their fellow-specialists' investigation and reflection, both to students and to the general public, **without fear or favor**. The proper discharge of this function requires...that the university teacher shall be exempt from any pecuniary motive or inducement to hold, or to express, any conclusion which is not the genuine and uncolored product of his own study or that of fellow specialists.”

THE CROWE REPORT, CAUT, 1958

“the following basic postulates are not open to serious question: that *academic freedom and security of tenure are neither ends in themselves nor the exactions of special privilege but merely conditions indispensable for the performance of the purposes of higher education*; that the search for truth which is the central purpose of institutions of higher learning cannot prosper without freedom of inquiry and expression; and finally, that security of tenure is prerequisite to academic freedom.”

THE CROWE REPORT, CAUT, 1958

“Academic freedom would be vulnerable indeed if its limits depended on the interpretation placed by a college administration on the remarks of a member of the academic staff. Academic people may say things which are not understood by the administration. Indeed, ***it is no part of the function of a professor to speak only in accents familiar to the administration.***”



CAUT Policy Statement

1

The institution¹ serves the common good of society, through searching for, and disseminating, knowledge, and understanding and through fostering independent thinking and expression in academic staff and students. These ends cannot be achieved without academic freedom. All academic staff members have the right to academic freedom.

2

Academic freedom includes the right, without restriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom to teach and discuss; freedom to carry out research and disseminate and publish the results thereof; freedom to produce and perform creative works; freedom to engage in service²; freedom to express one's opinion about the institution, its administration, and the system in which one works; freedom to acquire, preserve, and provide access to documentary material in all formats; and freedom to participate in professional and representative academic bodies. Academic freedom always entails freedom from institutional censorship.

3

Academic freedom does not require neutrality on the part of the individual. Academic freedom makes intellectual discourse, critique, and commitment possible. All academic staff members have the right to fulfil their functions without reprisal or suppression by the employer, the state, or any other source. Institutions have a positive obligation to defend the academic freedom rights of members.

4

All academic staff members have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, expression, assembly, and association and the right to liberty and security of the person and freedom of movement. Academic staff members must not be hindered or impeded in exercising their civil rights as individuals, including the right to contribute to social change through free expression of opinion on matters of public interest. Academic staff members must not suffer any institutional penalties because of the exercise of such rights. ←



Academic Freedom Policy Statement, Approved by CAUT Council, 2018



Media room / News /

Statement on Academic Freedom

“the academic mission, like other work, **has to be organized according to institutional needs.** This includes the institution’s responsibility to select and appoint faculty and staff, to admit and discipline students, **to establish and control curriculum,** to make organizational arrangements for the conduct of academic work, to certify completion of a program and to grant degrees.”

ACADEMIC
FREEDOM IS
NOT
FREEDOM
OF
EXPRESSION

Academic freedom is a **limited professional right**, guided by standards of professional competence.

Freedom of expression is guaranteed to all Canadians under the Charter and is limited only by libel, harassment and hate speech laws.

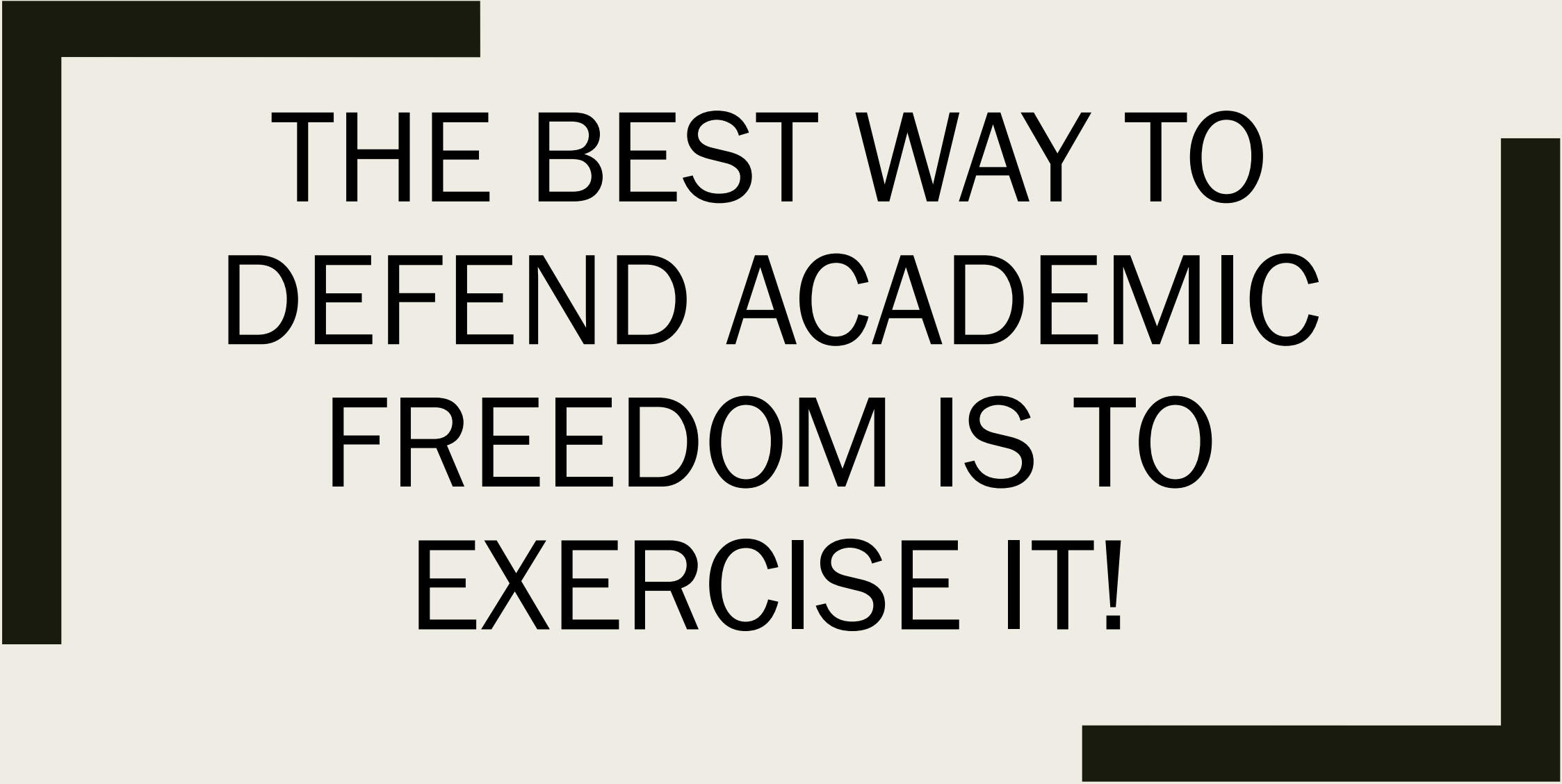
ACADEMIC FREEDOM HAS LIMITS

- Does not confer immunity from criticism.
- Not a license to break the law or violate the collective agreement.
- Not an excuse to treat students, staff, or colleagues abusively.
- Not a defense against academic dishonesty, breaching ethical standards, or professional incompetence.
- Does not offer protection from unpleasant colleagues.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND
STRUGGLES FOR EQUITY,
INCLUSION, DIVERSITY AND
INDIGENIZATION ON CAMPUS
ARE VITALLY LINKED.

ACCESS TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM
IS NOT EVENLY DISTRIBUTED
ACROSS ACADEMIC STAFF.

PRECARITY UNDERMINES
ACADEMIC FREEDOM.



**THE BEST WAY TO
DEFEND ACADEMIC
FREEDOM IS TO
EXERCISE IT!**