

MJC Academic Senate
Resolution FL17-B: Board Policy 4-8067 Sectarian, Partisan, or Denominational Teaching
December 3, 2017
Proposed by Jim Howen

- Whereas:** The Yosemite Community College District recognizes the rights of individual students concerning their freedom of speech and freedom of religion as protected by the United States Constitution, and
- Whereas:** The District further recognizes the responsibility of its faculty and staff to respect those rights, and
- Whereas:** The District recognizes and supports the ability of students and District employees to freely exercise their right to freedom of speech outside of the classroom and working hours,
- Whereas:** Although the YCCD faculty have the right to “academic freedom” in the classroom, authorized by the State of California, the YCCD recognizes that no such “right” is absolute or limitless when compared to rights guaranteed under the US Constitution, and
- Whereas:** The YCCD strongly supports a balanced educational experience for its students and just as strongly opposes attempts to indoctrinate those students or weaken their religious beliefs, and
- Whereas:** The YCCD further recognizes that merely telling students that they have the right to not believe what they hear being presented as “fact” in the classroom is not sufficient to protect them from attempts at indoctrination, and
- Whereas:** The presentation of material in the classroom is clearly in the “10 + 1” purview of the Academic Senate, and related Board of Trustees policies are required by Title 5 to “rely primarily” on the decisions of the Academic Senate, and
- Therefore:** The Academic Senate supports the adoption of Board Policy 4-8067, amended as follows:

4-8067 Sectarian, Partisan, or Denominational Teaching

The Yosemite Community College District shall maintain an intellectual environment that respects religious beliefs of all citizens. Religious worship services shall not be held by the colleges of the District.

There shall be no attempt to destroy or weaken a student’s faith.

No sectarian or denominational doctrine shall be taught as truth in either College. However, the Colleges of the District should have no hesitancy in teaching about religion.

No publication of a sectarian, partisan, or denominational character shall be distributed or used for sectarian, partisan, or denominational purposes ~~in~~ **by** either college **or their employees in an official capacity**, except that nothing herein shall restrict **such distribution or use outside of the classroom by individuals as an expression of their right to freedom of speech, or restrict** the development and use of library collections.

~~strike through~~ = delete **bold underlined** = added

First Reading: January 18, 2018

Final Reading:

Disposition: Failed