DECLARATION OF STUDENT RIGHTS, FREEDOMS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PREAMBLE
Franklin & Marshall College is a scholarly community whose aim is to create an environment for humane learning. Toward this end, students and faculty working together in close relationship pursue not only knowledge but also wisdom. In their mutual devotion to intellectual discovery, each stimulates the other. The prerequisite for the continuing success of this endeavor is academic freedom—the freedom to teach and learn. As full members of the College community, therefore, students, like faculty, are encouraged to develop their capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. The rights, freedoms and responsibilities of students outlined below are essentials for the realization of this goal.

Academic freedom depends for its vitality upon appropriate conditions in the classroom, on the campus and in the larger community. The responsibility to secure and maintain these conditions is shared by students, faculty and administration.

FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
The character of an institution of higher learning finds expression in the criteria it applies in offering admission to prospective students and these criteria become significant factors in the safeguards of appropriate freedoms of students on campus. It is therefore appropriate that they receive mention in this document.

Franklin & Marshall is a selective college. It chooses to offer admission to students who are intellectually well qualified and highly motivated and whose presence in the campus community can be expected to contribute to a desired diversity of interests, talents and backgrounds. No applicant is denied admission on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, physical handicap, or other factors that have no bearing on a candidate’s potential academic success. Admission is competitive and limited by the availability of facilities, programs and other resources of the College.

The quality of a student’s academic record in secondary school is the most important criterion for admission. Other factors evaluated in the selection process are test scores, recommendations, participation in co-curricular activities and information concerning the student’s personality and character.

Subject to reasonable regulations and the rules of the College, the facilities and services of Franklin & Marshall College are open to all enrolled students. Students may only pledge and belong to Greek organizations recognized by the College. Pledging eligibility is described in the Recognition Guidelines for Greek Organizations.

IN THE CLASSROOM
Members of the Franklin & Marshall College faculty, in the classroom and in conference, are expected to encourage free inquiry. Student performance is to be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinion or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards.

A. Protection of Freedom of Expression
Students are responsible for learning and demonstrating an understanding of the content of any course of study in which they enroll. Furthermore, students are free to express careful and reasoned criticism of data and opinion offered in any such course.

B. Appeal of a Grade by Students (See the Catalog)

C. Protection Against Improper Disclosure
Information about student views, beliefs and political associations which professors, administrators and staff acquired in the course of their work is to be considered confidential. Protection against improper disclosure of this information is a serious professional obligation. As committee members or as employees of the College, students also may often find themselves obligated to avoid improper disclosure of confidential personal information.

Judgments of personality, ability and character of students may be provided by faculty or administra-
tors under appropriate circumstance. Normally, responses to requests for references are to be made with the knowledge or consent of the student, although the substance of such response may be held confidential. In listing references on graduate school applications, job applications, etc., it is the individual student’s responsibility to obtain permission from his or her recommenders to use their names and to give those persons permission to release personal information about him or her.

It is recognized that judgment on the part of College faculty members and administrative officers is called upon in responding to inquiries. The College wishes to be helpful to its students in career opportunities or employment, but it carries a moral and professional obligation to be complete and candid in evaluations. It may also on occasion be appropriate for the College to respond to inquiries about a student without a formal authorization from the student; a student applying for a sensitive governmental post, for example, does so in the knowledge that his or her background will be investigated and therefore can be assumed to have given consent to respond to inquiries. College officials may thus feel free to respond to such inquiries but need not feel obligated to do so.

In virtually no situation, however, will College records be opened to inspection by inquirers or investigators except under legal compulsion. Information other than the student’s attendance dates at the College, degrees earned, or home or local addresses is normally not made available unless permission has been received from the student or in cases in which the safety of persons or property may be endangered. If in response to subpoena the College is required to release information from any records, the College will endeavor to inform the student.

**STUDENT RECORDS**

Franklin & Marshall College has a policy of maintaining complete academic, disciplinary, health and financial records for its students. The recording of such information is necessary to protect the rights of both the student and the College, and while the student is in residence or consulting the College about his or her plans, such records are valuable in the College’s basic purpose of facilitating the student’s development as an educated person.

The College is mindful that student records in general should be held in a relationship of confidentiality between the student and the institution. Although students may not request that a record be withdrawn, destroyed, or improperly altered, they may appropriately expect the College to release confidential information only with their prior knowledge and consent, except under unusual circumstances described above in Section II, C, “Protection Against Improper Disclosure.” In the many other circumstances in which inquiry may be made about students or alumni by students, their parents, prospective employers, other institutions, governmental agencies, faculty, administrative officers and philanthropic and research organizations, the College normally follows guidelines established in 1976 by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

In addition, the College currently observes these safeguards:
- Formal academic records and official transcripts (including actions which may affect a student’s eligibility for re-admission to the College) are maintained separately from notes of counseling interviews, disciplinary records and other kinds of personal information.
- Records of committee proceedings in disciplinary cases and the record of disciplinary actions, per se, may be kept for undetermined periods for College purposes or research.
- The confidentiality of health and counseling services is inviolable, subject only to provisions of law and professional ethics.

**STUDENT LIFE**

Franklin & Marshall College recognizes that, in the interest of preserving students’ freedoms, certain standards must be maintained in student affairs. The College recognizes the following criteria related to freedom of association and freedom of inquiry and expression:

**A. Freedom of Association**

The College places few limitations on the private affiliations of students. Students are also free to organize and join associations in the legitimate pursuit of their common and private interests.

It is recognized that student associations may appropriately be affiliated with extramural organizations. These conditions are considered appropriate for all student associations at Franklin & Marshall College:

1. Membership, policies and actions are determined by persons who are bona fide members of the College community.
2. Each organization is free to choose its own adviser from the faculty, staff, or administration of the College. Advisers counsel organizations in the exercise of responsibility but do not have authority to control their policies or monetary actions.

3. Organizations furnish a statement of purpose, criteria for membership and a current list of officers.

4. Organizations must not restrict membership because of race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, physical handicap, or national or ethnic origin, except that religious qualifications may be required by organizations whose aims are primarily sectarian, and except that some Greek organizations have unique characteristics requiring single gender membership.

To be eligible for consideration and a favorable recommendation by Club Council for subsidy by the College and to enjoy free use of College facilities, a student organization must meet the foregoing conditions.

Individuals or groups that do not meet these criteria may also apply to Club Council for special funds to support an event or project that benefits the entire College community. Since funds are limited, applications should be submitted as early during the semester.

B. Freedom of Inquiry and Expression

1. Franklin & Marshall College students and student organizations are free to discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. At the same time, it must be emphasized that, in the public expression or demonstrations of students or student organizations, they are speaking only for themselves.

2. Franklin & Marshall students may invite and hear any guest speaker or presentation that they choose. A routine procedure for the scheduling of facilities and preparation for the event is required. The College is obligated not to use institutional control of campus facilities as a device of censorship. It is recognized, however, that campus events are intended primarily for the edification of members of the College; therefore, such events must be open to the full College community, although it is not obligatory upon the College to permit the public or the press to be in an audience. The College also reserves such authority as is necessary to provide for the health and safety of its members and invited visitors. The sponsorship of guest speakers by the College or a student organization does not necessarily imply approval or endorsement of the views expressed, either by the College or the student organization.

3. In expression of their views in any manner, students share in the responsibility for maintaining the orderly processes of the academic community and the greater society. The policy with respect to disruption is stated below under “Disruptions of the Academic Process” and in actions of the Board of Trustees.

4. Posting and chalking on our campus are not rights; they are privileges open only to members of the community. Non-College-affiliated individuals and commercial enterprises may not freely post or chalk messages on campus. Posting is permitted only on certain exterior and interior areas of campus. All exposed sidewalks on campus are available for chalking. Chalking should be done in washable chalk or pastels. No permanent paint, markers, or other items may be used for sidewalk chalking. Postings are not permitted in areas where they could be potentially dangerous, destructive, or difficult to remove. Messages that contain abusive language, threats, fighting words, or obscenities will be removed, as will all messages, regardless of content, that appear in prohibited locations or that fail to comply with other relevant restrictions. For more detailed information on these policies, see the Office of College Programs.

   The posting of signs on the sidewalk should be limited to the following areas:
   a. East, west and south entrances of the Steinman College Center
   b. The west entrance to Stager Hall
   c. The entrances to and the exits from the Dining Hall at Ben Franklin out into the Quad
   d. The front of Old Main
   e. College House entries

   All sidewalk postings should be 8 1/2 x 11”; any larger signs need to be approved by the Office of College Programs. Biodegradable tape or water-soluble glue should be used. Clubs, organizations and recognized Greek Organizations must submit a copy of their flyers to the Office of College Programs with name and phone number on it before posting the flyers on campus. It is the group’s responsibility to remove the sidewalk postings within 48 hours of the event or be subject to a fine for the cost of removing the overdue or inappropriately placed postings. Please refer to the Student Leader Guidebook for additional details.

C. Student Participation in Governance
Franklin & Marshall College observes a form of collegial responsibility in the governance of academic and other campus affairs. The College encourages student participation in campus governance, particularly through the processes of the Diplomatic Congress and the College House governments.

OFF-CAMPUS FREEDOMS OF STUDENTS

A. Exercise of Rights of Citizenship

As citizens, students have the same freedoms as other citizens enjoy, and they also carry the same obligations and responsibilities as other citizens. Students are also members of the academic community, and they are subject to the obligations imposed by membership in that community and enjoy such privileges as accrue by reason of such membership.

Faculty members and administrative officials are obliged to insure that institutional powers are not misused to inhibit the legitimate exercise of rights of citizenship either on or off campus.

B. Institutional Authority and Civil Penalties

Activities of students may upon occasion result in violation of the law, and students who violate the law may incur penalties prescribed by civil authorities. College officials stand prepared to apprise students of sources of legal counsel and may offer assistance. Students apprehended by College officials in offenses of a criminal nature can expect that such cases will be referred to the civil authorities.

The College does not use its institutional authority merely to duplicate the function of civil courts, but it is recognized that in committing a violation of law, a student may also have violated institutional regulations and therefore be subject to institutional sanctions as well as civil penalty. The College, through the Committee on Student Conduct or administrative intervention, reserves the right to review each such violation brought to the College’s attention to determine whether the academic community is distinctly and clearly affected under the College’s regulations, outlined in the College Life Manual and other official publications of the College, and if it finds in the affirmative, it may appropriately assert jurisdiction in the aspect of the case.

It is understood that a student who incidentally violates institutional obligations (such as requirements of class attendance) in the course of off-campus activity shall be subject to no greater penalty for such violations than would normally be imposed.

COLLEGE POLICIES

STUDENT CODE

Within the limitations that govern an ordered intellectual community, the College accords students freedom of inquiry, expression and action. Freedom is not interpreted as license, for a corollary of freedom in a democratic society is responsibility. Each student, therefore, is expected to assume the obligations of responsible citizenship in the College community.

Attendance at Franklin & Marshall College is a privilege, not a right. The College reserves the right to impose discipline up to and including expulsion from the College when it determines that a student has engaged in conduct inconsistent with institutional regulations or objectives of the College, whether that conduct occurs on or off the College Campus.

Citizenship in the Franklin & Marshall community requires respect for the dignity and rights of each individual, respect for public and personal property and personal and academic honesty.

Students are expected to obey all the laws and ordinances of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the City of Lancaster.

Since regulations are necessary in any community, guidelines have been established in the form of a Student Code that accords students the greatest possible freedom consistent with the welfare of other students and the College. Violation of this Code subjects a student to disciplinary action, which may result in his or her dismissal from the College.

The College’s judicial proceedings (administrative or Committee on Student Conduct) are designed to determine a student’s status in the College community and whether discipline for a violation of the Student Code should be imposed. Judicial proceedings are not designed for, nor intended to be, a determination of liability under Civil or Criminal Law.

The College also expects all of its student groups and organizations to follow College policies as well as local, state and federal laws and regulations. Groups and their officers and members failing to do so are