

Academic Freedom for University Teachers

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Modern Universities were first established in Europe as self – governing institution outside the civil law. Some of this isolation survives today as few large universities still have their police department.

The legal concept of academic freedom was originated around 1850 in Germany and was based upon two principles (i) freedom of faculty for scientific research and teaching (ii) the right of students to attend/not attend any lecture. The German constitution of May 1949 declared that “**Art, Science, Research and Teaching**” are free and declared “**education and all teaching under control of the Federal Minister**”.

The First University in USA (John Hopkin University) was founded in 1876 along the design of German Universities.

In 1915, the American Association of University

Professors (AAUP) issued first recommendation of academic Freedom and Tenure. Although this statement has no legal effect but all major colleges and uni-versities have adopted this statement, and have inclu-ded in the faculty policy manual and have thus law-fully incorporated in the employment contract.

There are two different kinds of academic freedom.

1. Individual Academic Freedom.
2. Institutional Academic Freedom

It is suggested that “**Policy maker in higher education**” may consider the practice of academic freedom in Europe and USA and adopt those practices which are allowed by the constitution and cultural practices in Pakistan.



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