

THE CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGES
Office of the Chancellor
5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90036

September 26, 1969

To: State College Presidents
From: H. E. Brakebill *HEB*
Executive Vice Chancellor
Subject: Individual Faculty Obligation to Meet
Classes - Executive Order No. 79

I am pleased to transmit a copy of Executive Order
No. 79 relating to the policy on Individual Faculty Obligation
to Meet Classes.

HEB:pz

Attachments

cc: Vice Presidents or Deans of Academic Affairs
Vice Presidents or Deans of Administration
College Business Managers
College Personnel Officers
Chancellor's Office Staff

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September 26, 1969

Individual Faculty Obligation to Meet Classes
Executive Order No. 79

This Executive Order is issued pursuant to Chapter IV and pursuant to Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter III of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of the California State Colleges.

1. The policy on Individual Faculty Obligation to Meet Classes, attached to this Executive Order as Attachment A, is established for the California State Colleges effective this date.
2. FSA 69-70, which contains background material on this subject, is also attached.

Dated: September 26, 1969.



Glenn S. Dumke, Chancellor

No. 79 - Individual Faculty
Obligation to Meet
Classes

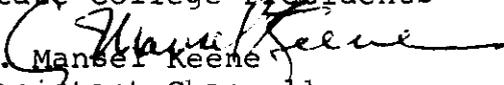
Policy on Individual
Faculty Obligation to Meet Classes

Effective on and after this date, each college president shall assure himself that his faculty maintains the highest professional standards and meets its assigned obligations to the students. Dismissal by an individual faculty member of his classes as a demonstration in support of a particular social or political movement shall be considered a violation of professional ethics and a failure or refusal to perform the normal and reasonable duties of the position, and Presidents shall institute formal disciplinary proceedings in such cases.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGES
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5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90036

September 26, 1969

FSA 69-70

To: State College Presidents
From: C. Mansel Keene 
Assistant Chancellor
Faculty and Staff Affairs

Subject: Individual Faculty Obligation to Meet Classes

BACKGROUND

The faculty has a specific and clear responsibility to protect the academic freedom of the students. This obligation is an acknowledged part of academic mores and has been restated by both the American Association of University Professors and the Academic Senate of the California State Colleges.

One aspect of the student's academic freedom is the right to pursue his course of studies in an uninterrupted manner and at an assigned time and place. The professor has the right and responsibility to control his own classroom, including the content and techniques of instruction, so long as he does not diminish the rights of his students. Charged with the responsibility for a particular class, he has the obligation to meet that class to further the students' academic goals.

It is recognized, that from time to time, individual faculty members may decide that particular classes should be adjourned to enable the student to participate in appropriate guest lectures, academic convocations, or special seminars. The faculty member must, in such circumstances, assure himself that such activity furthers the academic goals of the student in that particular class. He must be prepared to justify such dismissal, if called upon to do so. Dismissal of classes as a demonstration in support of particular social or political movements or goals does not fall in the above category. Such dismissal constitutes unwarranted and unprofessional interference with the academic freedom of the student, depriving him of his expected academic situation and forcing him to support

political or social goals with which he may not sympathize. As one state college statement on students' rights and responsibilities notes:

"The student has the right to substantial presentations appropriate to the course. Unjustified failure of the instructor to meet his classes or repeated lack of preparation which results in incompetent performance by the professor is a legitimate ground for student complaint."

CMK:pz

cc: Vice Presidents or Deans of Academic Affairs
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THE CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGES
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5670 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90036

October 14, 1969

FSA 69-76

To: State College Presidents

From: 
C. Mansel Keene
Assistant Chancellor
Faculty & Staff Affairs

Subject: Executive Order No. 79

Several questions have been raised about the meaning and application of Executive Order No. 79. It is alleged to conflict with the disciplinary action procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees, or to preclude presidential prerogative to hold convocations or to circumscribe faculty prerogatives in the classroom. It does none of these.

It is specifically aimed at protecting the student's right to a substantial and regular presentation of the course that he is attending. It states clearly and simply that the faculty have no right to impose their political views on the students by depriving them of a class in support of some unrelated goal. It does not seek in any way to prevent the student from participating in political activities of his own choosing nor does it limit the faculty member's rights. It does assume that the faculty is employed to teach certain courses and that failure to do so, for other than illness or an academically justified event, constitutes refusal to perform the normal and reasonable duties of the position.

Executive Order No. 79 does not prohibit a President from holding convocations. It should, however, raise in his mind the appropriateness of holding such convocations as a political pressure play, particularly if they involve the cancellation of classes. In this regard, it is reassuring to know that we do not stand alone in this position. The NEW YORK TIMES in an editorial entitled "Freedom on Campus: Oct. 15" made the following point:

* * *

The movement has inevitably raised the question whether the universities themselves should become parties to the protest by officially shutting down and canceling all operations. A few institutions have already announced such a course, and their decision has been hailed by some as a mark of political responsibility.

It seems to us, however, that such a response violates the principle to which a university ought to be dedicated--to provide a sanctuary for the free exchange of ideas, without itself becoming either symbol or instrument of a particular political position. It was clearly to prevent any misinterpretation of the university's proper role that Dr. Andrew Cordier, president of Columbia, recently emphasized that when he speaks out against the war, he does so as an individual, not on behalf of the university.

This is not a hair-splitting distinction; it is fundamental. To take an official university position on the war in Vietnam, repugnant as that war is to great numbers of students, professors and other citizens, would be to open the way to turning universities into centers of propaganda. Such a development would not only deprive their scholarly mission of public credibility; it might soon create intolerable pressures within the campus to reduce, and possibly silence, dissent from the official institutional line.

* * *

The Chairman of the Statewide Academic Senate, in a memorandum given widespread distribution, has misconstrued Executive Order No. 79. He has taken it to mean that Subsections a and b of Section 10.1 of the Disciplinary Action Procedures will be bypassed. Nothing could be further from the truth! What Executive Order No. 79 says is that the presidents shall consider the act of dismissing a class for the purposes of demonstrating support of a particular political or social movement as a violation of professional ethics and a failure to perform the normal and reasonable duties required of a faculty member, or both, and shall, in such cases, institute disciplinary proceedings.

Any disciplinary proceedings so commenced will be conducted in accordance with the disciplinary action procedures in effect at the particular college. The hearing committee will, as is customary, make a determination as to whether the conduct

October 14, 1969

changed, in fact, constitute a basis for discipline, and will make an appropriate recommendation to the President.

The position of the Chancellor's Office can be summarized as a desire to prevent the California State Colleges from being used by any political group for their own partisan goals, while at the same time encouraging students and faculty alike to take an active and concerned role in the community. As the New York Times noted, "this is not a hair-splitting distinction; it is fundamental."

CMK:vp

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