

# DPU

**Dr. D. Y. PATIL VIDYAPEETH, PIMPRI, PUNE**

**(Deemed to be University)**

**(Accredited (3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle) by NAAC with a CGPA of 3.64 on four point scale at 'A++' Grade)**

**(Declared as Category - I University by UGC Under Graded Autonomy Regulations, 2018)**

**(An ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 Certified University)**

# Policy on Supporting Academic Freedom

▪ **June 2024**



### NOTIFICATION

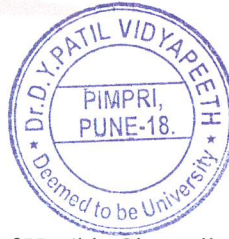
In pursuance of the resolutions passed by the **Executive Council** at its meeting held on **26<sup>th</sup> June 2024** vide **Resolution No. EC-29(i)-24**.


It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pimpri, Pune has published "**Policy on Supporting Academic Freedom**" for the Vidyapeeth.

This Policy on Supporting Academic Freedom comprises the following:

- Vision
- Mission
- Policy Statement
- Scope
- Guidelines
- Governance and Oversight
- Dispute Resolutions

This Policy will serve as a detailed guideline and will be useful to all concerned. This will come into force with immediate effect.



  
(Dr. Narendra M. Kadu)  
Registrar

Copy to;

1. P.S. to Chancellor for the Kind information of Hon'ble Chancellor, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth Pune.
2. P.S. to Vice Chancellor for the Kind information of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune.
3. P.S. to Pro Vice Chancellor for the Kind information of Hon'ble Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune.
4. Director (IQAC), Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune.
5. Director (Administration: Quality Assurance, Faculty Development & Research), Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune
6. Director (Research), Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune.
7. Controller of Examinations, Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune.
8. Finance Officer, Dr. D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune.
9. All the Heads of the Colleges / Institutes of DPU
10. Web master for uploading on DPU website.

Encl: As above

## **“POLICY ON SUPPORTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM.”**

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**(Freedom to choose areas of research and to speak and teach publicly about the area of their research).**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune popularly known as ‘DPU’, managed by **Dr. D.Y Patil Vidyapeeth Society, Pune**, was declared as “Deemed-to-be University, **under section 3 of UGC Act 1956** in 2003. To start with, there was one constituent college i.e., Dr. D.Y Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, Pune. Later, a few more constituent colleges were established and/or brought under the ambit of the DPU.

**AND WHEREAS** today the Vidyapeeth has 14 constituent institutions under its umbrella. All the institutions have the approval / recognition of the relevant statutory bodies to offer UG, PG Degree/Diploma, Super-specialty and Ph.D. programmes in relevant and emerging disciplines, specializations, and super specializations.

**AND WHEREAS**, as per the provisions of University Grants Commission (Institution Deemed to be University) Regulations, 2019 in Sub Clause Nos. 10.07 sub-sub clauses 10.07.1 and 10.07.2 provides that the Board of Management shall be the Principal Organ of Management and the Apex Executive Body of the Institution Deemed to be University, with powers to make rules and shall be the final decision-making body in respect of every matter including academic, administrative, personnel, financial, development matters of institution Deemed to be Universities.

**AND WHEREAS**, as per the provisions of University Grants Commission (Institution Deemed to be University) Regulations, 2023 in Clause 11 and Sub Clause No. 11 (3) and 11 (4), Clause 13 and Sub Clause No. 13 (1) and 13 (2) of the Regulations provides that the Executive Council shall be the Principal Organ of Management and the Apex Executive Body of the Institution Deemed to be University, with powers to make rules and shall be the final decision making body in respect of every matter including academic, administrative, personnel, financial, development matters of institution Deemed to be University.

**AND WHEREAS**, in exercise of the powers conferred under UGC (Institution Deemed to be Universities), Regulations 2023, the Dr. D. Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune (Deemed to be University) hereby makes **Policy for Academic Freedom**, a set of guidelines, regulations, and initiatives governing freedom related to Academics.

## **1. INTRODUCTION:**

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### **Purpose and Scope:**

Academic freedom ensures scholars, researchers, and students can freely share ideas and knowledge without fear of censorship, reprisal, or undue influence from external forces like politics, economics, or institutions. We at Dr. D.Y Patil, Vidyapeeth, Pune (Deemed to be University) seek to develop a policy that promotes academic freedom by addressing our responsibilities as a HEI and an academic University/Institution to foster open inquiry and intellectual diversity while balancing academic freedom with institutional values, legal obligations, and professional standards. Our primary goal in implementing this policy is to protect academic freedom across all our universities, colleges, and institutions.

## **2. VISION:**

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The vision of Policy on Supporting Academic Freedom at Dr. D.Y Patil, Vidyapeeth, Pune (Deemed to be University) is to create an academic environment that fosters free inquiry, intellectual diversity, and the pursuit of truth. This policy aims to Promote Open Dialogues that encourages the free exchange of ideas, Safeguard the rights of scholars, researchers, and students to engage in research, teaching, and learning without fear of censorship, retaliation, or undue external influence by Protecting their Intellectual Independence, Cultivate Innovation and Critical Thinking. Overall, at Dr. D.Y Patil, Vidyapeeth, Pune (Deemed to be University) the vision is to maintain a vibrant academic community where freedom of thought, expression, and research thrives, advancing knowledge for the benefit of society while upholding the highest ethical standards.

## **3. MISSION:**

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The mission of Policy on Supporting Academic Freedom at Dr. D.Y Patil, Vidyapeeth, Pune (Deemed to be University) is to Safeguard Free Inquiry by ensuring that all members of the academic community have the right to explore, question, and disseminate knowledge without fear of censorship, retaliation, or external interference. We aim to actively promote Responsible Scholarship and foster a Collaborative, supportive and Inclusive Environment, academic space for advancement and intellectual exploration. Through these efforts we contribute to fostering an environment where knowledge can flourish, societal progress is encouraged, and intellectual rigor is upheld.

## **4. POLICY STATEMENT:**

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The “Dr. D.Y Patil, Vidyapeeth, Pune (Deemed to be University) Institution is committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable environment where academic freedom thrives. We recognize that the free exchange of ideas is essential to the pursuit of knowledge and innovation, and we support the rights of all members of our academic community—faculty, students, and staff—to engage in open inquiry, teaching, research, and expression without fear of censorship, discrimination, or retaliation.

In addition to promoting academic freedom, we affirm our commitment to diversity and inclusion by ensuring that all voices, particularly those from historically underrepresented or marginalized groups, are heard and respected. Academic freedom must be exercised with the responsibility of upholding ethical standards and mutual respect, fostering intellectual growth, and understanding by creating a culture where viewpoints can be discussed constructively.

This policy statement strikes a balance between academic freedom and inclusivity, ensuring that all members of the academic community feel empowered to contribute to intellectual discourse.

## **5. SCOPE:**

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This policy applies to all faculty, researchers, and students at the institution, as well as visiting scholars and guest lecturers. It governs academic activities within the classroom, research endeavours, and public statements made in connection to their scholarly work.

## **6. DPUS' GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR 'POLICY ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM':**

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**Dr. D.Y Patil, Vidyapeeth, Pune (Deemed to be University)** believes that it's our duty to uphold the right to free inquiry, expression, and research. Similarly, we believe that the Academic Freedom which refer to the rights and protections that are granted to scholars, allowing them to pursue knowledge and express ideas without fear of censorship, retaliation, or interference is the fundamental right which we never interfere with. These principles are essential for fostering a vibrant intellectual environment. We ensure freedom in teaching, learning, and publishing ideas, that is practiced across all our University/Colleges & Institutes.

These principles collectively foster an environment where scholarship, learning, and debate can thrive in a way that contributes to societal advancement.

- **Freedom of Inquiry and Research:** Dr. D. Y Patil Vidyapeeth shall strive to inculcate in each Scholar, Researcher and students and employee the liberty to explore, investigate, and research any subject without fear of censorship or reprisal including the ability to challenge existing norms, question prevailing ideologies, and explore unconventional topics. We shall allow our faculty and researchers the freedom to choose research topics and methods and will strive to protect them against external influences on research agendas.
- **Freedom of Teaching:** Educators have the autonomy to determine how to present academic material in a way that aligns with their professional judgment and disciplinary standards. They are free to explore relevant topics and pedagogical approaches, while students have the right to engage critically with the material, express their opinions, and challenge ideas presented to them. It should allow teachers to present diverse viewpoints and engage students in critical thinking without political, religious, or institutional pressure.
- **Freedom of Expression:** Dr. D. Y Patil Vidyapeeth encourages our faculty and students to express themselves both inside and outside of the classroom, without fear of institutional censorship, harassment, or sanctions. This includes academic discourse, publishing, and public commentary on subjects relevant to their expertise.
- **Academic Responsibility / Ethical Standards/ Responsibility and Integrity:** Academic freedom entails maintaining high standards of intellectual integrity and rigor. While academic freedom promotes intellectual liberty, it must be used responsibly. We at Dr. D. Y Patil Vidyapeeth ensure that our faculty and students follow ethical standards, conducting research and teaching with honesty and objectivity, and respecting the dignity and rights of others. This includes a commitment to evidence-based research, critical thinking, and ethical behaviour, as well as a refusal to spread false or misleading information.

- **Protection from Retaliation:** A key component of academic freedom policies is the protection of faculty, researchers, and students from retaliation for exercising their academic freedom including protections against dismissal, disciplinary actions, or other professional sanctions when individuals engage in lawful expression or research, irrespective of controversial ideas. At DPU we aim to protect this academic freedom and Neutrality invariably thereby ensuring that no member of the academic community will face disciplinary action, loss of employment, or other forms of retaliation for exercising their academic freedom, provided that, they adhere to the principles of scholarly integrity and institutional policies.
- **Institutional Autonomy:** We at DPU are Committed to maintaining independence from external political, economic, or ideological pressures.
- **Non-Discrimination and Inclusivity:** Dr. D. Y Patil Vidyapeeth aims at promoting an inclusive environment where diverse viewpoints are respected simultaneously ensuring that academic freedom does not allow harassment or discrimination. DPU's main motive as a University/College & Institution is to ensure that all scholars have equal access to academic discourse, regardless of background or beliefs.
- **Public Expression:** Dr. D. Y Patil Vidyapeeth aims at addressing guidelines for public expression, distinguishing between personal and institutional opinions. We strive to ensure respectful and responsible public discourse, maintaining a commitment to free speech while balancing the need for a respectful campus environment while fostering an atmosphere of open dialogue and understanding.
- **Responsibility and Accountability:** Academic freedom carries with it certain responsibilities. We emphasize the responsibilities that come with academic freedom, as well as the responsibility of faculty, staff, and students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity to maintain academic excellence and contribute to the institution's mission. Dr. D.Y Patil Vidyapeeth's Faculty Members, Employees and all those Individuals associated to DPU are expected to:
  - Maintain professional integrity and competence in their fields.
  - Respect the rights of others to hold differing opinions.
  - In case of teachers, ensure that their teaching and research contribute constructively to the educational mission of the institution. Scholars must balance their freedom with accountability to ethical standards and truth-seeking principles.
- **Review and Amendment:** DPU's Policy on Academic Freedom includes provisions for regular review, amendment, and updates to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

This structured policy framework ensures that academic freedom is protected while maintaining accountability and adherence to professional standards.

## **7. GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT:**

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DPU's academic freedom policies outline the role of academic governance bodies (like Academic Freedom Committee) in overseeing the protection of academic freedom. The Committee often internally will review cases involving potential violations of academic freedom and provide guidelines on how disputes should be resolved in an impartial manner. Our policies will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure it remains in line with changing academic standards. Clear reporting channels will be established, with retaliation

protections in place. We at DPU are committed to promoting intellectual diversity while remaining objective about the content of academic discourse across our University/Colleges & Institutions.

## **8. PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS:**

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DPU believes in Freedom of speech. Thus, our faculty members are free to express their views publicly as citizens, but our academic freedom policies in place may stipulate that when doing so, scholars should clarify whether they are speaking in a personal capacity or as representatives of the institution. This helps ensure that institutional neutrality is maintained. This will be implemented across our University/Colleges & Institutions.

## **9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION & ENFORCEMENT:**

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Policies at DPU will positively include mechanisms for addressing grievances or disputes related to academic freedom, such as review committees, mediation processes, or appeals systems. These ensure that potential violations of academic freedom are handled fairly and transparently.

Violations of this policy, such as acts of censorship or retaliation, will be addressed through established institutional channels for grievance and dispute resolution. Faculty and students are encouraged to report any concerns regarding the infringement of academic freedom to the appropriate institutional authorities.

## **10. CONCLUSION:**

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The protection of academic freedom is vital for fostering innovation, critical thinking, and societal progress. It allows scholars to challenge prevailing ideas, develop new theories, and engage with the broader community on issues of public importance. It also underpins the credibility of academic institutions as places where knowledge is pursued without external constraints.

Academic freedom is essential to the core mission of **Dr. D.Y Patil, Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University)** as a Higher Education Institution. By upholding these principles, we promise to ensure a vibrant academic environment where knowledge can be pursued and shared openly, contributing to the development of society and the growth of human understanding.

In conclusion, Dr. D.Y Patil, Vidyapeeth's' policy on supporting academic freedom seeks to safeguard the rights of scholars while ensuring that their work adheres to professional, ethical, and legal standards. It creates an environment where academic discourse can thrive, promoting intellectual diversity, innovation, and the pursuit of truth.

**Implementation Date: 26/06/2024**

**Sd/-**  
**Dr. Narendra. M. Kadu**  
**Registrar**