



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS EDUCATION COMMAND
MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY
2076 SOUTH STREET
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5067

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MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY POLICY LETTER 8-03

From: President, Marine Corps University/Commanding
General, Education Command

To: Distribution List

Subj: ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND NONATTRIBUTION POLICY

Ref: (a) DoD Directive 5230 (Clearance of DoD Information
for Public Release)

(b) DoD Directive 5500.7 (Standards of Conduct)

Encl: (1) Guest Speaker Agreement & Permission to Record
(Example)

1. Purpose. To provide the Marine Corps University (MCU)
philosophy and policy on academic freedom and
nonattribution.

2. Cancellation. MCU Policy Letter 4-02, dated 20 March
2002.

3. Background

a. Academic freedom is the ability of faculty,
students, and staff within the University to pursue
knowledge, speak, write, and explore concepts. Academic
freedom is a key tenet at Marine Corps University and is
fundamental and essential to the health of the academic
institution.

b. The time-honored tradition of free speech carries
with it profound individual responsibility as well.
Academic integrity requires that anyone who writes for
publication must pursue factual accuracy and safeguard
classified information. Reference (a) describes procedures
for release of information officially endorsed by an
academic institution, as well as those for individuals
acting in a private capacity, and not connected with their
official duties.

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c. The powerful amalgam of academic freedom and individual responsibility contributes to the institutional integrity of the University and includes the following principal elements:

(1) Freedom to teach, conduct research, and publish research findings

(2) Freedom to discuss in a classroom, any material or ideas relevant to the subject matter, as provided in the course objectives

(3) Freedom to seek changes in academic and institutional policies

(4) Responsibility to pursue excellence, intellectual honesty, and objectivity in teaching

(5) Responsibility to encourage faculty, students, and colleagues to engage in free discussion, publication, and inquiry

(6) Responsibility to encourage and nurture innovative critical thinking, discussion, and writing concerning national security issues and the enhancement of the standing and credibility of professional military education

d. A key component of learning requires that an open expression of thoughts and opinions exist in an atmosphere of academic freedom. Open expression requires trust that those thoughts and opinions will not appear subsequently in other environments where the speaker may encounter consequences if those remarks are attributed to that speaker. Nonattribution is the treating of statements made in a school forum as privileged information not to be attributed to a specific individual.

4. Policy

a. Academic Freedom

(1) Authors/researchers and school and college directors will ensure material which carries the endorsement of the school satisfies the writing and scholarly standards of the school and meets security requirements.

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(2) Authors shall ensure appropriate disclaimers accompany all publications they produce in a private capacity, where they are identified with MCU or any of its components. An appropriate disclaimer is as follows:

"The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense, United States government, United States Marine Corps, or the Marine Corps University."

(3) Personnel who prepare manuscripts for publication on a subject in which they have had access to classified material should submit the manuscript through appropriate channels for security clearance prior to release to any publisher.

(4) All school and college directors shall provide an appropriate mechanism through which a proper security review may be conducted. If there is any question on the security aspects of material, it shall be submitted for security review in accordance with reference (a).

(5) Uniformed faculty and students are limited in the manner in which they may publicly criticize senior officials. However, as an academic institution, MCU recognizes and encourages full and open discussion and debate of any policies within the classroom and under the umbrella of nonattribution, so long as such criticism and debate is done in a professional manner.

(6) Faculty members may not be separated for exhibiting academic freedom and candor in written and oral products, provided the provisions of references (a) and (b) are followed.

b. Nonattribution

(1) MCU encourages faculty, staff, and students to actively engage in free discussion and inquiry expressing their personal views in lectures or in seminar discussion groups without fear of attribution. At the beginning of each academic year or course of instruction, school and college directors are responsible for informing faculty, staff, and students of the MCU policy to maintain an atmosphere of free and open discussion while also adhering to the principles of nonattribution.

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(2) Attendees at MCU guest speaker presentations will not record them verbatim, by any means, without express written permission in advance from the guest speaker and the school's or college's director or authorized representative. Those wishing to request permission should follow the example provided in enclosure (1). To facilitate candid expression and learning, the nonattribution policy applies to all MCU programs, sessions, and distributed materials in which guest speakers participate.

5. Applicability. The provisions of this policy apply to all faculty, staff, resident, seminar, and distance learning students, military personnel, and civilian employees assigned to or serving with Marine Corps University.



T. A. BENES

Distribution: A

MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY

(School or College Name)

As an institution of higher learning, MCU supports and encourages learning in an environment of responsible freedom for the exchange of ideas and experiences. This environment is extended to our visiting speakers by offering the right of nonattribution. While MCU can assure this right, such assurance cannot be extended to cover recordings of speaker presentations. For that reason, recordings or copies of presentations are made or maintained by Marine Corps University only with explicit authority of the guest speaker. Recorded remarks may be subject to public disclosure regardless of MCU policies. Speakers are not required to allow taping of lectures.

1. I, the undersigned, hereby grant the Marine Corps University the right to photograph, film, audio record, and/or video record my image, voice, and/or performance; to use materials and graphics that I have created; and to freely modify, reproduce, and distribute such materials in whole or in part.

2. I understand that this grant is for educational purposes only and not for profit or commercial use.

3. I understand that this grant includes, but is not limited to, the right for Marine Corps University students to use and possess these materials on distance learning media.

4. I agree to hold Marine Corps University, their administration, employees, and agents harmless from any liability, loss, or damage caused by my appearance or statements or by materials furnished by me.

5. Personal information:

Contributor's Name-
Street Address-
City, State, Zip Code-
E-mail-
Type of Contribution/Date-
Title of Contribution-

6. Guest speaker's identified limitations:

Guest Speaker-

School/College Director-
