

CITRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD POLICY

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TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

1. Controversial issues may arise from conflicts in the interests, beliefs, or affiliations of large groups of our citizens. The consideration of controversial questions has a legitimate place in the work mission of public institutions. The alternative to the consideration of controversial issues is the abandonment of the intellectual integrity of the academic community.
2. College instructional and co-curricular activities should help the student develop skills for considering controversial questions--skills which can be used in later life. Issues labeled as "controversial" are often of significant importance to the academic community, in terms of its commitment to seek the truth.
3. The handling of a controversial question in a college should be free from the assumption that there is one correct answer to be taught authoritatively to the student. However, college instructors must be free to express their ideas concerning issues of significance.
4. Controversial questions should be handled in an appropriate setting by an instructor prepared for such responsibility. Such questions are related to many events in the past and the present which are important to profitable study.
5. The Board of Trustees recognizes its responsibility to go on record with a declaration of the above policies for handling controversial questions in the College. The Board plans to protect instruction and administrative personnel from any partisan pressures which may develop.

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