



University Policy Statement California State University, Fullerton

UPS 100.006

A COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY AT CSUF

As members of the University community, we are committed to ensuring an environment where learning and the creation and dissemination of knowledge are foundational goals and where freedom of speech and expression is viewed as an essential characteristic of a community of scholars. To reach these goals it is imperative that we foster a climate where civility is valued, appreciated, and expected and where all members of the community are treated with dignity, respect, and care.

"Civility" comes from the Latin noun *civilitas* which has several meanings - namely "citizenship," "the body of citizens," "the city-state," "friendliness," "affability," and "geniality," - and, thus, may be equaled with courtesy--a style and manner that elevates human interaction and discourse. Civility is apparent when we are aware of the impact that our communications, practices, and behaviors have on others and when we acknowledge each person's worth, cultural perspective and unique contributions to the community.

Establishing a civil climate is a shared responsibility of all community members - students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Civility is the expression of respect for others and for the tasks we share. It is best modeled through a willingness to listen to alternative views, respecting diversity and encouraging ideas. It is our belief that differences of opinion should reside within a framework of respectful discourse and lead to mutual understanding.

Therefore, we believe that civility is a cornerstone of our university mission and values, and we reaffirm our commitment to civility on the campus--both inside and outside the classroom. We will both individually and collectively strive to treat each other with dignity, respect, and care in all of our interactions.

Source: Academic Senate Executive Committee

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