

## ARTICLE I: THE BASIC PRINCIPLES

The following are guiding principles upon which this Academic Charter is based:

- A. Essential to the atmosphere of a University is academic freedom, the full freedom of speech, freedom to teach, to learn, and to conduct inquiry in a spirit of openness necessary to the acceptance of criticism, the expression of differing opinions, and the pursuit of truth. The exercise of academic freedom by faculty and students carries with it responsibilities for the good of the academic community and society.
- B. Tenure of faculty is an indispensable condition for fulfilling the obligation of the University to maintain an atmosphere of academic freedom. Specifically, tenure is a means toward academic freedom in teaching, research, dissemination of information, and extramural activities. Tenure provides a sense of vocational security that helps attract to the University persons of competence in the advancement of knowledge.
- C. Government in the University as in a state or a nation is best based upon principles rather than upon people.
- D. The primary responsibility for the development and maintenance of the University's academic programs belongs to the faculty.
- E. There must be faculty participation within the governance structure of the University, and student participation when deemed appropriate, for discussion of problems and policies at all levels within the University.
- F. Faculty and student participation is fundamental to good faculty-student-administrator relations in a mature university.
- G. It is recognized that all members of the University Community and the Trustees have legitimate concerns about all aspects of the University. It also is recognized that the primary concern of students is with learning and pursuing their courses of study; the primary concern of members of the faculty is with effective teaching and scholarly research or creative work; and the primary concern of administrators is to provide service and support to the students and the faculty, to protect the legal interests of the University, and to assure the implementation of the policies and procedures prescribed by the governing councils and agencies of the University.