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ETHICS AND DEONTOLOGY

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RESUME

This chapter outlines the fundamental rights and duties of students, professors, and administrative staff within the university community, emphasizing their roles in fostering a respectful, ethical, and effective academic environment.

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CHAPTER 05 : RIGHTS AND DUTIES

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Universities play an essential role in society as bastions of knowledge, research, and training. Within these institutions, students, professors, and administrative staff are key actors, each with fundamental rights and duties that contribute to the flourishing of the university as a place of learning, research, and innovation.

Students, as beneficiaries of higher education, have the fundamental right to a quality education, equal opportunities, and a safe and inclusive learning environment. They have the duty to actively engage in their own education, respect academic and ethical standards, and contribute positively to university life by fostering dialogue and diversity.

Professors have the right to academic freedom, which encompasses the freedom to teach, research, and disseminate knowledge. Their duty is to provide quality teaching, promote research, innovation, and critical thinking, while respecting the diversity of ideas and opinions within the university community.

Administrative staff, as the support pillar of academic activities, have the right to work in a respectful, fair, and professional environment. Their duty is to contribute to the effective management of the university, facilitate the functioning of the institution, and guarantee quality service to students and professors.

Together, these actors form a university community where rights and duties complement each other to create an environment conducive to research, learning, and the promotion of knowledge. Respect for these rights and duties is essential to maintain the integrity and reputation of universities as pillars of knowledge and progress.

I-Rights and Duties of the Student

I.1- Student Rights

Student rights are deployed along four fundamental axes, each of crucial importance. Some rights relate to the nature and quality of the training, thereby guaranteeing optimal learning. Other rights are designed to preserve the dignity of the student, ensuring a respectful and inclusive environment. A third group of rights concerns freedom of expression, allowing the student to express themselves and participate actively in academic life. Finally, the last axis

of rights revolves around the pedagogical aspect, guaranteeing a fair and transparent evaluation process. This balanced distribution of rights aims to ensure a complete and fulfilling educational experience for students.

I.1.1 - Rights related to the quality of teaching

The student, in their quest to acquire a university degree of excellence, has the fundamental right to benefit from the highest quality university teaching throughout their academic journey. This implies the constant provision of cutting-edge training for research, which can only be achieved by establishing an educational environment of impeccable quality.

Moreover, the student has the inalienable right to benefit from technological advancements that transform the landscape of higher education. In this context, they are granted the right to access an excellent educational environment, leveraging all modern and appropriate pedagogical methods, to guarantee their intellectual and academic fulfillment. This right can be illustrated by access to online services such as documentation and online teaching, access to an internet network...

I.1.2 - Rights related to the preserved dignity of the student

The student, as a member of the university community, deserves respect and the safeguarding of their dignity in all circumstances. They have the imprescriptible right not to be subjected to any form of discrimination, whether related to gender or any other personal characteristic. The assurance of their safety, the cleanliness of their environment, and the preservation of their health, whether at the university where they pursue their studies or in their university residence, is a right due to them.

I.1.3 - Rights related to freedom of expression

The student, evolving within an academic environment rich in diversity of opinions and perspectives, is entitled to enjoy freedom of expression and opinion, provided that this is done within the frameworks set by the texts governing the functioning of university institutions. The student also has the right to create or participate in student associations, while ensuring that they remain distinct from the university administration and do not infringe upon its independence.

I.1.4 - Rights related to pedagogy

At the beginning of each semester, the student has the indisputable right to receive the course syllabus, as well as access to essential pedagogical materials, including sources, references, publications, and other resources necessary for their training. Evaluation, as a means of assessing the student's skills, must be conducted fairly, without prejudice or discrimination.

The student has the right to know their evaluation grade, accompanied by the exam correction model and the grading scale. Furthermore, they have the right to review their exam work, in accordance with the predefined deadlines announced by the pedagogical committees. In case of perceived prejudice in the exam correction process, the student has the absolute right to appeal, thus preserving their right to an impartial and fair evaluation.

I.2- Student Duties

I.2.1 - Respect within the university family

As an essential link in the vast university family, the student is required to comply with the prevailing organisational structures. They must show the utmost respect for the dignity and integrity of all members of the university community, guaranteeing their fundamental right to freedom of expression. As an active member of this family, the student must demonstrate exemplary civic conduct, respect established norms, and embody high ethics.

I.2.2 - Pedagogical integrity:

The student is required to demonstrate absolute integrity and sincerity in their quest for knowledge, rigorously avoiding all forms of cheating and intellectual theft. Furthermore, the student must provide accurate and correct information during enrollment or re-enrollment processes, fulfilling all their administrative obligations towards the institution. Finally, they must respect the decisions of the deliberation committees.

I.2.3 - Preservation of facilities and resources

The university student has the responsibility to preserve the public facilities made available to them, thereby optimising their learning experience, including spaces dedicated to study. They must also ensure the conservation of equipment and resources provided to support their studies. The student is required to scrupulously respect the established rules and procedures to guarantee safety and security within the institution.

I.2.4 - Responsibility for errors

When a student commits a fault on campus, they assume full responsibility for their actions. They are officially informed of the fault attributed to them, and they are subject to the disciplinary council, which summons the concerned student and follows regulatory procedures. Appropriate sanctions are taken against the student, in accordance with prevailing regulations and the institution's internal rules. These sanctions are gradual and depend on the severity of the committed fault.

II- Rights and Obligations of Professors

The university professor is the central pillar in the training of society's elites and leaders. They represent the fundamental core in the establishment and development of scientific research across all fields, an essential pillar that contributes predominantly to the renaissance, development, and advancement of nations. Indeed, scientific research constitutes the barometer par excellence of a nation's progress.

To ensure that the professor-researcher rigorously fulfils the responsibilities incumbent upon them, a series of rights are intrinsically linked to a set of obligations aimed at fostering the growth of scientific research and forging elites to serve society.

II.1- Professor Rights

To guarantee that professor-researchers accomplish their tasks and contribute to the progress of scientific research, fundamental rights are guaranteed to them:

Higher education institutions are responsible for providing an environment conducive to the full exercise of the professor-researcher's functions, provided they adhere to the university's ethical charter and respect the laws and regulations in force. The professor also has the right to be solicited to occupy administrative tasks to place their skills and experience at the service of the university. This right is conferred on the condition that they demonstrate effectiveness in these tasks. Added to this, evaluation, focusing on research work, is a crucial element of the process, alongside teaching, to assess the contribution of professor-researchers.

Higher education institutions are required to provide modern infrastructure and necessary resources to facilitate the work of professor-researchers in accomplishing their pedagogical and research tasks.

Furthermore, appropriate working conditions must be made available to allow them to devote themselves fully to scientific research. Higher education institutions also ensure that professor-researchers benefit from regular supplementary training in their field, in order to update their knowledge continuously.

II.2 - Obligations

The professor-researcher is entrusted with several essential responsibilities within the framework of their university research activities:

- They must strive to respect the highest standards, guaranteeing the integrity of their professional practices.

- Professional secrecy and confidentiality are imposed on them. All interactions, deliberations, and discussions within the university bodies in which they participate must remain confidential.

- Professional conscience plays a primordial role in ensuring the respect of their obligations, and they must adhere to this imperative.

- They are involved in evaluating the progress of academic and commercial activities at all levels.

- They must provide all information and decisions related to their work and make them accessible to stakeholders, while respecting the principle of the right to appeal.

- They must not misuse their rights and powers for personal purposes.

- They must not use the university to pursue personal objectives that fall outside the institution's mission.

- When responsible for managing university finances or allocating funds to research or other activities, they must act with integrity and diligence in their expenditure.

- They must maintain a high level of professionalism and effectiveness in the field of teaching, committing to updating their knowledge and developing their research skills.

- They must engage in a process of self-evaluation of their skills and scientific knowledge.

- When engaged in teaching, research, and dissemination of science activities, they must avoid any type of propaganda or bias, whether religious or ideological.

Their primary mission is to promote science impartially and convey its scientific message in accordance with the material means provided by the higher education institution, in an environment imbued with scientific ethics, which fosters the exchange of ideas and skills among students while preserving their freedom, provided that these ideas are channeled within the appropriate scientific framework when necessary, and this, in a spirit of justice and equity, without any form of bias.

III- Rights and Obligations of the Administrative and Technical Staff

III.1- Rights

It is imperative to guarantee treatment imbued with respect and fairness towards members of the administrative staff, ensuring the establishment of infallible justice among them, in accordance with the precepts of the general statute of the public service as well as specific laws in force.

The recruitment, promotion, evaluation, and appointment process, which shapes the professional path of each administrative employee, must be transparent and guided by objective criteria.

Part of their fundamental right is the prevention of any form of harassment or abuse towards them, without any distinction based on considerations of gender, race, religion, or political affiliation.

They are given the right to work under conducive conditions to allow them to successfully accomplish the missions entrusted to them, by providing them with an adequate environment and resources.

Moreover, it is imperative to ensure that administrative employees have access to training and professional development opportunities to improve their performance within our institution continuously.

III.2- Obligations

The members of the technical and administrative staff fully commit to embodying the highest values of integrity, sincerity, and loyalty towards the mission of our institution. This means they will scrupulously respect work schedules and ensure the preservation and responsible management of material resources to guarantee the proper functioning of the university.

Their commitment extends to the preservation of our institution's security. They commit to avoiding any action or behavior that could jeopardize this security. Furthermore, they will strictly respect all laws, regulations, and decisions emanating from the administrative authorities of the university institutions that guide them.

Within the university community, they commit to embodying exemplary morality and adopting honorable behavior, both inside and outside the university. They will refrain from any action or speech that would contradict the responsibilities of their position.

Respect for professional secrecy is a value they must take seriously. They will under no circumstances disclose confidential information or news of which they become aware, unless necessary in the framework of their official duties.

Regarding their work within the technical and administrative staff, they commit to executing all tasks entrusted to them diligently. Their objective is to guarantee the provision of all necessary information and services to the university family. They will strive to contribute to an environment where the quality of public service is a priority, treating all members of the university community, including professor-researchers and students, with courtesy, respect, and diligence, particularly when accomplishing tasks related to them.

They commit to making available to all professor-researchers and students all information and documents to which they are legitimately entitled, in compliance with legal procedures in force. Their objective is to facilitate access to documentation and resources necessary for their work and learning, thus contributing to the success of our university institution.