

Chapter 5

Rights and Duties in Higher Education - Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

Universities bring together students, teacher-researchers, and administrative and technical staff to achieve education and research objectives. For these institutions to function effectively and harmoniously, every member must understand their rights while accepting corresponding responsibilities. Rights and duties form the ethical foundation of university life, ensuring both respect for individual dignity and maintenance of high academic standards.

II. THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

II.1. Quality of Education

- **Skilled instruction:** Access to qualified professors with expertise in their fields
- **Modern infrastructure:** Updated lecture halls, digital libraries, research databases
- **Technological resources:** Digital platforms, online resources, advanced laboratories
- **Current curriculum:** Regular updates reflecting present knowledge

II.2. Preservation of Student Dignity

- **Non-discrimination:** Protection from discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, disability, or health
- **Safe environment:** Secure campus facilities, regular maintenance, health services, mental health support
- **Healthy residences:** Appropriate living conditions free from harassment and violence
- **Psychological support:** Counseling services and peer support programs

II.3. Freedom of Expression

- **Academic freedom:** Right to express opinions freely while respecting institutional rules
- **Student organizations:** Right to create or join academic, cultural, sporting, and artistic associations
- **Responsible expression:** Exercise freedom while avoiding hate speech and harassment
- **Transparent governance:** Associations must operate separately from administrative management

II.4. Pedagogical Rights

- **Course materials:** Complete syllabi with learning objectives, assessment methods, and required resources
- **Fair evaluation:** Impartial grading free from prejudice, with clear criteria and transparent methods
- **Performance feedback:** Grades accompanied by answer keys, grading scales, and explanations

- **Exam review:** Right to consult examination papers within designated timeframes
 - **Appeal mechanism:** Opportunity to challenge unfair evaluations through established procedures
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III. DUTIES OF STUDENTS

III.1. Respect for the Academic Community

- **Institutional compliance:** Follow academic calendars, class schedules, and university regulations
- **Mutual respect:** Treat all community members with dignity and maintain professional interactions
- **Civic responsibility:** Demonstrate punctuality, preparedness, and constructive participation
- **Professional conduct:** Maintain appropriate attire and support institutional initiatives

III.2. Academic Integrity

- **Intellectual honesty:** Pursue knowledge without fraudulent methods, plagiarism, or scientific theft
- **Prevent dishonesty:** Avoid cheating, plagiarism, submitting others' work, data fabrication, unauthorized collaboration
- **Accurate information:** Provide truthful documents during enrollment and fulfill administrative obligations
- **Respect decisions:** Accept examination and disciplinary committee outcomes

III.3. Preservation of Facilities and Resources

- **Infrastructure stewardship:** Preserve classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and recreational spaces
- **Equipment care:** Properly use and maintain equipment, return borrowed items, report maintenance issues
- **Safety compliance:** Follow emergency procedures, laboratory protocols, and security rules
- **Cleanliness standards:** Maintain hygienic conditions in shared facilities

III.4. Responsibility and Discipline

- **Personal accountability:** Accept responsibility for actions and cooperate in institutional processes
- **Due process:** Students receive notification of allegations and evidence against them
- **Fair investigation:** Disciplinary committees conduct transparent inquiries
- **Progressive sanctions:** Warnings, reprimands, academic penalties, suspension, or expulsion based on severity

IV. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF TEACHER-RESEARCHERS

IV.1. Foundational Role and Mission

- **Central importance:** Teacher-researchers are cornerstone institutions for training leaders and advancing scientific research
- **Dual responsibilities:** Balance teaching, original research, student mentoring, governance, and professional development
- **Societal value:** Scientific research measures national advancement and international competitiveness

IV.2. Rights of Teacher-Researchers

IV.2.1. Academic Freedom and Independence

- **Protection from interference:** Freedom from undue political, administrative, or external pressures
- **Research freedom:** Right to choose topics and methodologies based on scientific merit
- **Teaching autonomy:** Discretion in pedagogical approaches and critical content without censorship

IV.2.2. Transparent Administrative Processes

- **Fair procedures:** Clear criteria for decisions affecting program definition, curriculum, resources, and priorities
- **Participation rights:** Access to decision-making processes and policy information
- **Administrative support:** Clear role descriptions, adequate resources, and reasonable time allocations

IV.3. Fair Evaluation and Assessment

- **Academic criteria only:** Evaluation based exclusively on research quality, teaching effectiveness, publications, and service
- **No personal factors:** Exclude political beliefs, religious views, family connections, or other non-academic factors
- **Regular feedback:** Periodic performance reviews supporting professional development

IV.4. Adequate Working Conditions and Resources

- **Infrastructure needs:** Office and laboratory spaces, modern equipment, reliable internet, research databases
- **Sufficient time:** Adequate hours for teaching, research, mentoring, and professional development
- **Financial support:** Funding for equipment, conference travel, publication costs, and research assistance

IV.5. Professional Development and Continuing Education

- **Training access:** Conference participation, sabbatical leave, pedagogical workshops, technological skills

- **Knowledge renewal:** Structured opportunities to update expertise reflecting current field developments
- **Career progression:** Clear pathways for promotion and advancement based on merit

IV.6. Appropriate Compensation

- **Fair remuneration:** Compensation reflecting societal importance, training responsibilities, and comparable positions
- **Benefits and security:** Health insurance, retirement provisions, employment security

V. OBLIGATIONS OF TEACHER-RESEARCHERS

V.1. Exemplary Personal and Professional Conduct

- **Personal integrity:** Embody competence, morality, integrity, and tolerance
- **Ethical standards:** Maintain independence, avoid conflicts of interest, disclose biases, adhere to codes of conduct

V.2. High Standards of Professional Activity

- **Teaching excellence:** Articulate objectives clearly, employ effective methods, respect progressions, provide feedback
- **Objective assessment:** Evaluate fairly based on established criteria without personal bias
- **Student consultation:** Allow work review, address concerns, maintain supportive relationships

V.3. Research Integrity and Academic Honesty

- **Rigorous standards:** Ground research in knowledge pursuit, respect evidence, follow methodological standards
- **Proper citation:** Credit original researchers, students, and collaborators appropriately
- **Plagiarism prohibition:** Submitting others' work is grave misconduct resulting in expulsion or loss of standing
- **Collaborative ethics:** Ensure clear roles, fair authorship credit, disclose funding sources

V.4. Confidentiality and Professional Discretion

- **Institutional confidentiality:** Protect all committee discussions and deliberations
- **Student privacy:** Keep sensitive information about grades, health, and disciplinary matters confidential
- **Research protection:** Maintain ethical confidentiality standards with human subjects

V.5. Professional Conscience and Ethical Behavior

- **Self-governance:** Regularly examine conduct and maintain high standards independently
- **Personal accountability:** Accept responsibility for decisions, fairness, and accurate representation

V.6. Transparent and Just Decision-Making

- **Transparency principle:** Follow clear procedures with announced criteria and documented rationales
- **Appeal mechanisms:** Right to present perspective and seek independent review

V.7. Responsible Use of Authority and Resources

- **No abuse of power:** Avoid personal advantage, exploitation, coercion, or harassment
- **Financial management:** Use funds appropriately, maintain records, comply with audits

V.8. Professional Presence and Availability

- **Institutional engagement:** Maintain office hours, participate in activities, contribute to community
- **Extended responsibilities:** Participate in evaluations, curriculum development, mentoring, professional service

V.9. Continuous Professional Growth

- **Professional development:** Stay current with innovations, update knowledge, practice self-evaluation
- **Methodological currency:** Reflect best practices, recent developments, and technological advances

V.10. Ethical Teaching and Research Practice

- **Universal norms:** Conform to recognized standards, institutional guidelines, laws, and discipline codes
- **Freedom from propaganda:** Abstain from religious advocacy, ideological indoctrination, or political pressure
- **Scientific integrity:** Present accurate evidence, acknowledge uncertainty, respect alternative viewpoints
- **Academic standards:** Operate with professional respect, scientific ethics, free idea exchange, justice, and equity

VI. OBLIGATIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF

VI.1. Integrity, Honesty, and Loyalty

- **Institutional commitment:** Demonstrate dedication to objectives, honest work, loyalty, and work quality
- **Policy compliance:** Maintain regular attendance, punctuality, confidentiality, workplace standards
- **Resource preservation:** Use property appropriately, minimize waste, maintain equipment, report damage

VI.2. Security and Safety Compliance

- **Institutional safety:** Avoid unauthorized access, security breaches, negligent supervision, unreported hazards
- **Regulatory adherence:** Respect all laws, institutional ordinances, administrative decisions, emergency protocols

VI.3. Exemplary Conduct and Professionalism

- **Moral behavior:** Conduct with integrity, honorable behavior, and professional representation
- **Professional relationships:** Treat colleagues respectfully, avoid favoritism, maintain boundaries, resolve conflicts

VI.4. Professional Confidentiality

- **Information protection:** Avoid disclosing confidential documents or sensitive personnel matters
- **Privacy respect:** Protect student, faculty, and institutional privacy
- **Limited exceptions:** Disclosure only when legally required, job-necessary, authorized, or for harm prevention

VI.5. Comprehensive Service Delivery

- **Complete information:** Provide all requested information accurately and thoroughly
- **Coordination:** Coordinate between departments, follow up on issues, maintain communication
- **Documentation:** Record interactions and meet service commitments

VI.6. High-Quality Public Service

- **Courteous conduct:** Display politeness, respect, active listening, and approachable manner
- **Efficiency:** Handle requests promptly, process documents efficiently, minimize delays
- **Information access:** Provide authorized academic records, institutional policies, contact information, procedures

VI.7. Respect for Professional Domains

- **Academic non-interference:** Respect faculty and student independence, avoid directing pedagogical decisions
- **Administrative responsibility:** Establish policies supporting academic freedom, protect from interference

VII. CONCLUSION

Higher education's framework of rights and duties promotes excellence, integrity, and respect among all university members. Students gain rights to quality education, dignity, and fair evaluation, balanced by duties of academic honesty and community respect. Teacher-researchers receive academic freedom and research support, requiring them to maintain ethical standards and mentor future leaders. Administrative staff enable teaching and research through integrity and efficient service.

When all stakeholders understand and fulfill their roles, universities advance knowledge, develop ethical citizens, and strengthen society. This reciprocal system of rights and duties is the cornerstone of academic excellence.

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