

WISR Policy on Academic Freedom

WISR affirms the principles stated in the “1940 Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure” by the American Association of University Professors (<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/policydocs/contents/1940statement.htm>). In particular, WISR affirms the importance of mutual respect to the inquiry that is so important to academia in general and to WISR in particular.

WISR places an emphasis on encouraging students and faculty to use inquiry in conjunction with action—in identifying and seeking to address community problems and needed directions for social change. We further respect each learner’s essential right to engage in free, uncensored inquiry. Of course, we also acknowledge that inevitably there will be disagreements among learners as to what inquiry should be conducted, what actions should be pursued, and on occasion even what core values should inform our work. At WISR, in the spirit of academic freedom, these differences are welcomed, and viewed as opportunities for further inquiry—indeed, ideally advancing collaborative inquiry among learners at WISR. They must not be cause for repudiation or retaliation.

Consistent with AAUP principles, WISR learners are free to express their opinions and conduct research without fear from institutional censorship or discipline, both within WISR and in the public arena. They also may identify themselves by their affiliation with WISR, with the only proviso being that they not suggest, implicitly or explicitly, that they are speaking on behalf of the institution.