



**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC
FREEDOM IN HIGHER EDUCATION
PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 177**

NOVEMBER 21, 2006

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Public institutions of higher education within the Commonwealth should continue to review existing academic freedom policies and procedures to ensure that student rights and grievance procedures are detailed and readily available.
- Public institutions of higher education should make students aware of the availability of academic freedom policies and grievance procedures. This should be accomplished by providing such information during student orientation when other student rights policies and/or discrimination policies are discussed. Additionally, this information should be available in the “student” section of the institution’s website.
- In order to provide students who do not wish to complain directly to a professor with an alternative option, public institutions of higher education should allow students to file complaints with a university official outside of the student’s major. This could be best accomplished by utilizing an existing office that handles student diversity issues for the purpose of receiving and processing such complaints.
- Public institutions of higher education should review course evaluation forms, and amend them if necessary, to ensure that students may have the opportunity to share their concerns about any possible violations of the institution’s academic freedom policies.
- All public institutions of higher education should maintain a record of complaints filed under the institution’s academic freedom policy.
- All public institutions of higher education shall make a report of actions taken regarding the recommendations of this Select Committee to the Chairman and Minority Chairman of the Subcommittee on Higher Education of the House Education Committee no later than November 1, 2008.