

**BOARD POLICY SERIES NUMBER: 4045**

**TITLE: THE STUDY OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

Within the framework of the orderly processes of our democratic society, the staff of LBCC will have the freedom to consider the study of controversial issues that will contribute to the positive development of college students. This college policy is based on certain assumptions that include but are not limited to the following:

- A. LBCC has an obligation to its community and its students to promote healthy discussion as an educative force.
- B. A search for truth will prevail.
- C. Our way of life is attractive enough and our institutions are sturdy enough to stand comparison with those that exist in any culture.
- D. An educated citizenry fully aware of all the evidence is best able to preserve the valuable heritage of American democratic institutions.
- E. A free society functions efficiently only if its citizens have the right to discuss, to debate, and to disagree constructively.
- F. Free discussion is a right extended to thoughtful citizens, but no one has the right to abuse this freedom by advocating the overthrow of the government by force or by advocating unlawful conduct.

The following criteria and guidelines shall be used in the selection and/or use of controversial issues. The issues will:

- A. contribute to the prescribed course of study and the educational program of the college;
- B. be of sufficient interest to encourage the participation of students;
- C. provide opportunity for critical thinking, tolerance, and understanding of conflicting points of view;
- D. be one about which sufficient factual information is available on all sides of an issue to allow for discussion and evaluation on a reasonable basis; and
- E. be discussed or presented so that all points of view will be given fair, factual, and equitable treatment.

DATE OF ADOPTION: 04/14/83

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