ACADEMIC FREEDOM: AN ESSENTIAL PREROGATIVE
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Article XIV, Section 5 of the Constitution of the Philippines states, "Academic freedom shall be enjoyed in all institutions of higher learning.

Academic Freedom is integral to any nation whose aims are to 1) build a high-trust society, 2) alleviate poverty, 3) deliver all facets of truth and 4) flourish even amidst all sorts of crisis.

Academic freedom renders academic communities an incessant, unrepressed and free from redress pursuit of knowledge, thus, any member of this group may seek information from any study of interest. This may shape and control information that is why some academic groups are and were targeted by external groups such as that of a political force. In fact, one professor of public health in Africa had lost his job after discovering the discrepancy between his findings and the country’s report on infant mortality rate. This is just one of the countless occurrences worldwide showing the setback of academic freedom.

Even with its danger exposed, the academe must continue to dig deeper and widen the body of knowledge as it helps us — the whole humanity — to learn and relearn ways to prolong our chances of survival in the coming years, if not centuries. Continuous quest for information can address a lot of pressing issues such as corruption, poverty, racism, climate change, chronic diseases, viruses and many more. Whereas halting fact-finding endeavors only perpetuate the status quo, the rigid concepts, the conventional set-up; hence, there is no change and improvement at all. Irrefutably, what is true today may be the rumor of tomorrow.
What is applicable today may lose its purpose tomorrow. If there is no growth in the academic world, the world will be stagnant and fruitless.

Dissemination of liberating, current and accurate information if channeled properly by any state may build a country where its citizens feel informed, involved, secured and content with their government services. This kind of environment strengthened societal ties and promotes productivity and progress.

Likewise, through intelligent debates which is one of the inclusions of academic freedom, taboo issues may be openly addressed and marginalized people may be freed from stereotypes and violence once and for all. It hands people the freedom to express their views in any medium they desire without the fear of sanctions and if deemed detrimental, due process of law must be in place. It also empowers teachers to construct their classroom based on their preference and to the best of their abilities.

Academic freedom is an essential prerogative one nation must permit.

References:  https://www.philippinesbasiceducation.us/

1987 Philippine Constitution, Article XIV, Section 5