

PHILOSOPHY

The entire concept of discipline in an educational institution is meaningful only when it is relevant to the generic purposes and functions of that institution. As an institution of higher learning, Linfield engages in conduct actions and processes which are vital to its basic concerns and for what it is designed.

In the broadest sense, Linfield exists to create a special environment for learning and pursuits of knowledge. It is an instrument for the development of the intellectual resources of its constituents. The University may be both a quiet sanctuary for contemplation and research and a forum for free discussion of contemporary issues. It is a place where the human spirit may be propelled toward a new discovery and deeper knowledge. Students, faculty members, administrators, staff, trustees, and alumni all share in the obligation to protect the integrity and promote the continuous growth of the University. All who benefit from it are indebted to it; differences lie only in the frequency and intimacy of contact with it.

The relationship of the University with the student, therefore, is in the essential nature of a contract involving a set of rights and obligations, reflecting both the purposes of the University and those of the students in attendance. Such a contract commits the University maximum availability to each student of its specific educational and environmental resources. It does not imply that the University provide services or exercise authority regarding matters unrelated to University functions. Such a contract also commits the student to full and meaningful participation in the endeavors in education and has a basic obligation not to commit or tolerate any impingement on the rights of others.

The University, therefore, exercises its authority over students in terms of the mutual interests of both parties and in terms of their contract with each other.