SOCIAL CONTRACT

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 2, filed 2/22/72)

WAC 174-124-020 BASIC PURPOSES -- INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY.

(1) The Evergreen State College is an association of people who work together as learners and teachers. Such a community can thrive only if members respect the rights of others while enjoying their own rights. Students, faculty, administrators and staff members may differ widely in their specific interests, in the degrees and kinds of experiences they bring to Evergreen, and in the functions which they have agreed to perform, but all must share alike in prizing academic and interpersonal honesty, in responsibly obtaining and in providing full and accurate information, and in resolving their differences through due process and with a strong will to collaboration. In its life as a community the Evergreen State College requires a social contract rather than a list of specific prohibitions and essentially negative rules.

(2) The individual members of the Evergreen community have the responsibility for protecting each other and visitors on campus from physical harm, from personal threats, and from uncivil abuse. Similarly, the institution is obligated, both by principle and by the general law, to protect its property from damage and unauthorized use and its operating processes from interruption. At the same time, it also must guarantee the right of the members of the community to voice their opinions with respect to basic matters of policy and other issues.

(3) As a community, Evergreen, through its governance structures, has both the right and the obligation to establish reasonable standards of conduct for its members in order to safeguard the processes of learning, to provide for the safety of its members, to protect the investment of the people of the State of Washington in its properties and to insure a suitable respect for the very different tastes and sensibilities of its members. For these reasons, the law empowers the president or presidential designees to intercede whenever sound judgment points to a clear and present danger to these concerns.

(4) Each member of the community must protect: (a) The fundamental rights of others in the community as citizens, (b) the right of each member in the community to pursue different learning objectives within the limits defined by Evergreen's curriculum or resources in people, materials, equipment and money, (c) the rights and obligations of Evergreen as an institution established by the State of Washington, and (d) individual rights to fair and equitable procedures when the institution acts to protect the safety of its members.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 2, filed 2/22/72)

WAC 174-124-030 INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY.

(1) Members of the Evergreen community recognize that the college is part of the larger society as represented by the State of Washington, which funds it, and by the community of greater Olympia, in which it is located. From this state of affairs flow certain rights for the members of the Evergreen community, certain conditions of campus life, and certain obligations.
(2) Among the basic rights are freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom of belief, and freedom from intimidation, violence and abuse.

(3) There may be no discrimination at Evergreen with respect to race, sex, sexual orientation, religious or political belief, or national origin in considering individuals' admission, employment or promotion. To this end the college has adopted an affirmative action policy (references Evergreen Administrative Code WAC 174-148, Equal Opportunity Policies and Procedures - Affirmative Action Program).

(4) Because the Evergreen community is part of the larger society, the campus is not a sanctuary from the general law or invulnerable to general public opinion.

(5) The Evergreen community will support the right of its members, individually or in groups, to express ideas, judgments, and opinions in speech or writing. The members of the community, however, are obligated to make statements in their own names and not as expressions on behalf of the college.

(6) All members of the college community have the right to organize their personal lives and conduct according to their own values and preferences, with an appropriate respect for the rights of others to organize their lives differently.

(7) Evergreen does not stand in loco parentis for its members.

(8) The right to use the mediation and adjudication process is enjoyed by all members of the Evergreen community. (Reference: WAC 174-108-06001 Mediation and Adjudication of Disputes, Grievances and Appeals).

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 2, filed 2/22/72)

WAC 174-124-040 CONDITIONS OF LEARNING -- FREEDOM -- PRIVACY -- HONESTY.

(1) Evergreen's members live under a special set of rights and responsibilities, foremost among which is that of enjoying full freedom to explore ideas and to discuss their explorations in both speech and print without let or hindrance. Both institutional and individual censorship are at variance with this basic freedom. Research or other intellectual efforts, the results of which must be kept secret or may be used only for the benefit of a special interest group, also violate the principle of free inquiry.

(2) All members of the Evergreen community are entitled to privacy in the college's offices, facilities devoted to educational programs, and housing. The same right of privacy extends to personal papers, confidential records, and personal effects, whether maintained by the individual or by the institution. Meetings of public significance cannot be properly held in secret.

(3) All members of the Evergreen community enjoy the right to hold and to participate in public meetings, to post notices on the campus, and to engage in peaceful demonstrations. Reasonable and impartially applied rules may be set with respect to time, place and use of Evergreen facilities in these activities.
(4) Honesty is an essential condition of learning. Honesty includes the presentation of only one's own work in one's own name, the full consideration of evidence and logic, and the recognition of biases and prejudices in oneself.

(5) Another essential condition of learning is the full freedom and right on the part of individuals and groups to the expression of minority, unpopular, or controversial points of view.

(6) Related to this point is the way in which civility is a fundamental condition of learning. Only if minority and unpopular points of view are accorded respect, are listened to, and are given full opportunity for expression will Evergreen provide bona fide opportunities for significant learning.

(7) All members of the Evergreen community should strive to prevent the financial, political, or other exploitation of the campus by any individual or group.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 2, filed 2/22/72)

WAC 174-124-050 INSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

(1) As an institution, Evergreen has the obligation to provide an open forum for the members of its community to present and to debate public issues, to consider the problems of the college, and to serve as a mechanism of widespread involvement in the life of the larger community.

(2) The college has the obligation to prohibit the use of its name, its finances, and its facilities for commercial purposes.

(3) Evergreen has the right to prohibit individuals and groups who are not members of its community from using its name, its financial or other resources, and its facilities for commercial, religious, or political activities.

(4) The college is obligated not to take a position, as an institution, in electoral politics or on public issues except for those matters which directly affect its integrity, the freedom of the members of its community, its financial support, and its educational programs. At the same time, Evergreen has the obligation to support the right of its community's members to engage, as citizens of the larger society, in political affairs, in any way that they may elect within the provision of the general law.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 2, filed 2/22/72)

WAC 174-124-120 PROCEDURAL REVIEW -- SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATION OF THE SOCIAL CONTRACT.

This document shall be reviewed with each review of the covenant on governance.
REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

(1) WAC 174-124-010 INTRODUCTION -- DECLARATIONS OF COLLEGE POLICY.

(2) WAC 174-124-060 THE ISSUE OF STRIKES -- BOYCOTTS -- SANCTIONS.

(3) WAC 174-124-070 JUDICIAL ACTION.

(4) WAC 174-124-080 INFORMAL MEDIATION.

(5) WAC 174-124-090 FORMAL MEDIATION -- COMMUNITY SERVICE LIST.

(6) WAC 174-124-100 APPEAL PROCEDURE -- BOARD OF JUDGMENT.

(7) WAC 174-124-110 OFF-CAMPUS OFFENSES OR CONVICTIONS -- ALL-CAMPUS HEARING BOARD.

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