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## Policy Name

4.4380 Controversial Materials

## Purpose and Scope

This policy defines the procedures surrounding materials deemed controversial for Alvernia University ("AU").

## Responsibilities

Title or Role	Definition and What They are Responsible For
Library Director	Receives exceptions to this policy.
Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost	Maintains and enforces this policy.
Senior Leadership Team	Serves as final approval for policy and assists with reviewing exceptions to the policy.

## Policy

Academia has traditionally been the home of unfettered debate on the full range of issues, sacred and profane, of concern to men and women of intellect and conscience. As integral parts of this primary academic mission, the Franco Library and its staff are dedicated to promoting that spirit of free inquiry by making available to the community the sources necessary for informed discussion. To this end, the library is committed to seeking books, non-print media and other materials that present opposing positions on hotly-disputed issues, and will strive to collaborate with the faculty in providing an appropriate forum for alternate viewpoints.

The primary responsibility for the acquisition of alternative viewpoints on controversial issues rests upon the librarians and faculty who normally select materials in different areas.

All materials selected for purchase will be processed, shelved and circulated according to regular library policies. No material will be labeled in any way that would differentiate it from "mainstream" holdings. Materials lost, stolen or vandalized may be replaced according to normal procedures. If specific titles are repeatedly vandalized or stolen, it may be necessary to place them on reserve to preserve access.

Any patron objecting to the inclusion of certain titles in the library collection must make a signed, written complaint to the Library Director detailing specific points to support his or her position.

A "Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials" will be provided for this purpose (see attached). The Director will respond in writing to patrons and if they remain dissatisfied with the resolution, the Director and librarians involved in the decision will meet with them upon request. Until a final decision is made, the questioned items will remain in the collection and available to patrons.

## Exceptions to Policy

Exceptions to this policy must be requested in writing by filling out the Policy and Procedure Exception form (linked below) and submitting to the individual named in the Responsibilities section who assists with reviewing exceptions to this policy.

## Policy Review

The Dr. Frank A. Franco Library Learning Center policies should be reviewed on a 5-year cycle and updated when institutional needs or goals change.

Approved versions of this policy will be posted on the Alvernia University Portal.

## References and Related Policies

This section contains any other policies, 3<sup>rd</sup> party standards, or guidelines referenced by this policy.

### References

N/A

### Related Policies

N/A

## Exhibits

This section contains any forms or exhibits referenced by this policy.

- [Policy and Procedure Exception Form](#)
- Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials (below)

### Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials

1. The material:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Request initiated by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Whom do you represent?

☐ Yourself

☐ A group (name): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Did you read the entire work?

☐ Yes

☐ No If not, what parts did you read?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Your objection:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Your recommendation: What would you like the library to do about this work?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In its place, what work would you recommend that would convey as valuable a picture and perspective of the subject treated?

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Other comments:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Document Review Log

Date Reviewed		Description of Changes	
5/9/2024		SLT Approval	