

## **Statement about spiritual, civil and academic freedom at the Ukrainian Catholic University**

1. The task of the UCU is to nurture and protect the spiritual freedom of a person, which enables him/her to act according to his/her own conscience; his/her civil freedom, which is the basis for forming a socially responsible personality; and academic freedom, which is the main driving force in finding the truth and in academic progress.
2. The UCU, as any other university, which claims to be called a free one, cannot declare any social ideology or scientific theory as binding on all.
3. This does not mean, however, that our university is a place of relativity. In particular, the UCU is not a place for promoting atheistic views. Thus, according to its proclaimed mission, the UCU is an "open academic community, which lives by the Eastern Christian tradition and raises leaders for our society, professionals, and for ministry in Ukraine and in the international context – in the name of God's glory, the common good and human dignity."
4. This mission is widely publicized, so every student, teacher or employee, who joins the UCU acknowledges by this that he/she shares its mission.
5. The UCU isn't "omnivorous" in the sphere of political ideologies. For example, it's prohibited to promote hateful ideologies, which in the XX th century were the ideologies of nazism and communism. In particular, at the UCU it is unacceptable to spread xenophobic, racist and criminally liable ideas, which contradict God's and human laws, because they promote violence and incite hostility.
6. Every employee, lecturer and student of the UCU has the right to freely choose his/her civil and academic position – hereby they confirm this right with the mission of the UCU and with the requirements of the academic process. In case of a radical incompatibility of their position with the UCU mission and its requirements of the academic process, a person has the right to defend his/her position beyond the university's walls, without belonging to it.
7. At the UCU there reigns a spirit of respect for creative search, which is impossible without a critical attitude to the achievements of one's predecessors. In the sphere of church doctrine, the community of the UCU conforms its creative searches with the teaching authorities of the Church.
8. The defining measure of a man's freedom is his God-given conscience, which he uses in his philosophical searches. On the one hand, it secures the right to doubt and error; and the UCU is a place of a friendly dialogue, which can bring its participants to a consensus and allow them to remain on their positions or to correct their errors. On the other hand, the primacy of conscience means that a person is ready to bear responsibility for his/her actions or expressions if they cause corresponding and understandable consequences.

9. The UCU is not authorized to express official opinions about the quality and strength of faith which the members of its community have, neither about the level of their patriotism. This is caused by the general conviction that ways to faith, common good and academic truth are inconspicuous and have only one sanction – the will of God’s Providence.

10. Protection and spreading of personal and collective practices of freedom in the spirit of this document is a duty and privilege of all who regard themselves a member of the community of the UCU.

Adopted as the basis at the meeting of the Rectorate of the UCU on February 11, 2010 AD.