2.D - The institution is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.

Assurance Evidence
"As an academic community, Colorado State University embraces certain foundational principles that guide our behaviors. Foremost among these is academic freedom for the faculty, a longstanding cornerstone of public higher education in our country. Academic freedom is the freedom of the faculty to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression, to speak or write on matters of public concern as well as on matters related to professional duties and the functioning of the University. These freedoms come with responsibilities; faculty are expected to follow professional standards for discourse and publication, to indicate when speaking on matters of public interest that they are not speaking on behalf of the institution, and to conduct themselves in a civil and professional manner consistent with the normal functioning of the University." Preface, Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual, as updated December, 2011.

CSU considers freedom of expression and inquiry essential to a student’s educational development. Thus, the University recognizes the right of all University members to engage in discussion; to exchange thought and opinion; and to speak, write, or print freely on any subject in accordance with the guarantees of the Federal and State constitutions. This broad principle is the cornerstone of education in a democracy. CSU is committed to valuing and respecting diversity including respect for diverse political, philosophical, and cultural viewpoints.

This commitment is explicitly disclosed and reaffirmed in several documents:

- Student Conduct Code, Preamble, p. 2.
- Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual – Preface updated in 2011 to emphasize the principles of academic freedom and shared governance and Section E.8 Academic Freedom as approved by the Board.
- General Catalog, Section 1.6, page 1: Freedom of Expression and Inquiry.
- Reaffirmation of institutional commitment to academic freedom by Presidential proclamation in 2004.

The University’s commitment to free exchange of ideas is also illustrated through the Monfort Lecture Series, which targets speakers of international distinction. Monfort Lecture speakers who have a variety of viewpoints and beliefs are selected to help stimulate conversation and academic discussions regarding important issues of the day. Past speakers in the series include George F. Will, Pulitzer Prize winner and Washington Post columnist; Condoleezza Rice, 66th U.S. Secretary of State; United Nations Messenger of Peace, Jane Goodall, DBE; Mikhail Gorbachev, former Soviet leader; Madeleine Albright, first female U.S. Secretary of State; Nobel Laureate Desmond Tutu; and the late General H. Norman Schwarzkopf. The annual Diversity Symposium includes a keynote speaker of national prominence, such as Sherman Alexie, Michele Norris, and Ray Suarez. When available, campus facilities have been used for campaign activities by many local and state politicians, and in 2012, for a campaign appearance by President Barack Obama.

Sources

1. 6 - Policies and Guiding Principles
2. Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual 2011-12 (Page 1)
3. Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual 2011-12 (Page 95)
4. Academic Freedom MOU
5. Freedom of Expression and Inquiry Policy
6. Student Conduct Code (Page 2)