

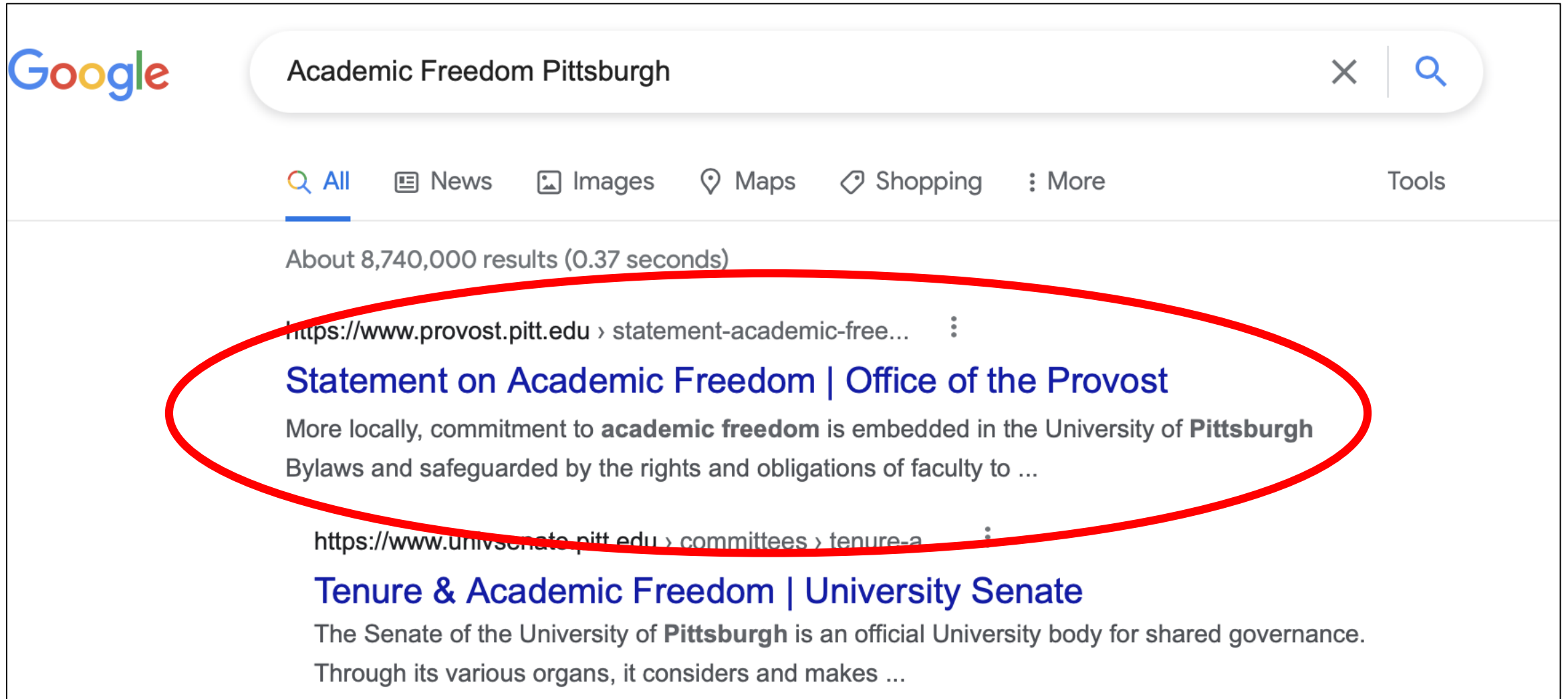
The Provost Statement on Academic Freedom was “vigorously” discussed and endorsed unanimously by TAFC.

It was endorsed subsequently by the Faculty Assembly.

At the Senate Council meeting of April 21, 2022 where it was also endorsed, the minutes state

Senate President Kear was quoted “...we would work so they *[statements on academic freedom]* are more visible and easier to find...”

Google search using “academic freedom Pittsburgh” yields sparse information



The image is a screenshot of a Google search interface. At the top left is the Google logo. The search bar contains the text "Academic Freedom Pittsburgh". To the right of the search bar are a close button (X) and a search button (magnifying glass). Below the search bar is a horizontal menu with links: "All" (selected), "News", "Images", "Maps", "Shopping", and "More". To the right of this menu is a "Tools" link. Below the menu, the search results are displayed. The first result is titled "Statement on Academic Freedom | Office of the Provost" and is circled in red. The second result is titled "Tenure & Academic Freedom | University Senate".

Google

Academic Freedom Pittsburgh

Q All News Images Maps Shopping More Tools

About 8,740,000 results (0.37 seconds)

[https://www.provost.pitt.edu > statement-academic-free...](https://www.provost.pitt.edu/statement-academic-free...)

Statement on Academic Freedom | Office of the Provost

More locally, commitment to **academic freedom** is embedded in the University of **Pittsburgh** Bylaws and safeguarded by the rights and obligations of faculty to ...

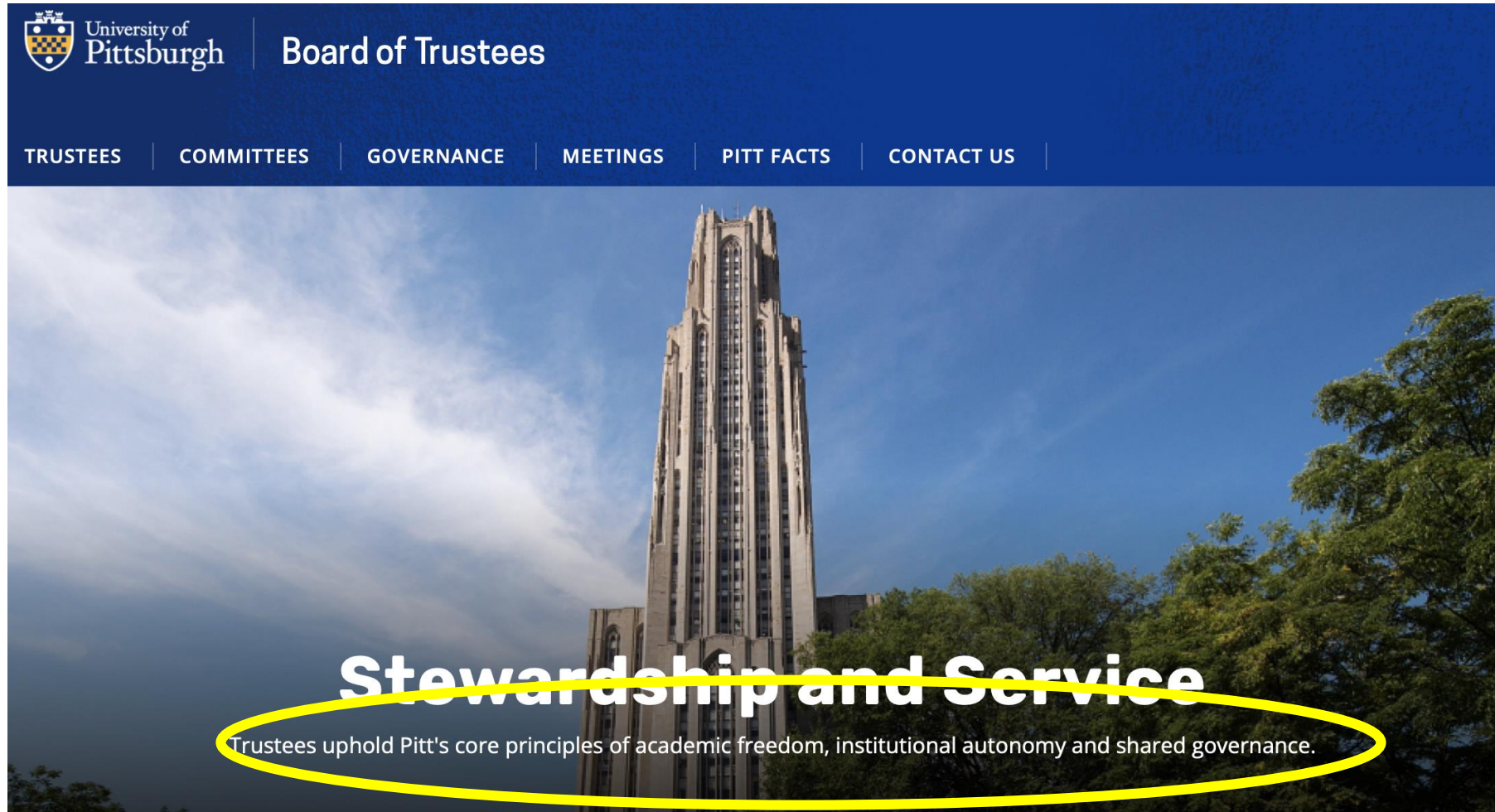
[https://www.univsenate.pitt.edu > committees > tenure-a...](https://www.univsenate.pitt.edu/committees/tenure-a...)

Tenure & Academic Freedom | University Senate

The Senate of the University of **Pittsburgh** is an official University body for shared governance. Through its various organs, it considers and makes ...

Board of Trustees Webpage states

Academic Freedom is one of our core principles



However, the Board of Trustees webpages do not have a definition of academic freedom, who has right/responsibility to it, how it may be defended, and whether certain actions may be taken if there were any breaches to the exercise thereof.

The University's mission is to:

- provide high-quality undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences and professional fields, with emphasis upon those of special benefit to the citizens of Pennsylvania;
- offer superior graduate programs that respond to the needs of the world;
- engage in research and extension of knowledge;
- cooperate with industry in science, technology, and business;
- offer continuing education programs adapted to the personal enrichment, professional upgrading, and career advancement interests and needs of adult Pennsylvanians; and
- make available to local communities and public agencies the expertise of the University in ways that are consistent with the primary teaching and research functions and contribute to social, intellectual, and economic development in the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

The 6-points statement of the University Mission (<https://www.trustees.pitt.edu/mission-statement>) makes no mention of Academic Freedom, which is necessary to accomplish these missions.

We have policies/procedures wherein academic freedom is mentioned

Examples (three most recent)

- *AO 45 Gift Acceptance and Naming
- *AO 46 Gifts that Support Projects
- *RI 10 Intellectual Property

However, on the webpage of the Office of Policy Development and Management



The lists of

- 73 academic policies
- 46 administration/operations policies
- 10 research/innovation policies

Do not include a separate policy/procedure on academic freedom

The University By-laws

(<https://www.trustees.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/osec-docs/Bylaws.pdf>)

and the Faculty Handbook

(<https://www.facultyhandbook.pitt.edu/introduction>)

mention “...Autonomy and freedom of inquiry are required for the University to carry out its mission...”

within the context of Academic Tenure: Purposes and Obligations (Chapter II, Article II, Sections 2.1-2.5)

**However, Chapter II, Article VII of the By-laws and
Article VI of the Faculty Handbook,**

have no mention of a right and/or expected commitment to
academic freedom for Full- and Part-time Non-tenure
(Appointment) Stream or Contract Faculty.

The TAFC Resolution on the Defense of Academic Freedom, under discussion today (06/01/2022), is a recommendation to the Senate's Faculty Assembly to urge University administration to increase visibility and improve codification of our commitment to Academic Freedom.

Consider that peer institutions have clear statements and codified (in statutes and policy/procedure) their commitments to academic freedom

- ✓ Univ Chicago Statement on Freedom of Expression (adopted by more than 80 institutions) <http://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf>; <https://www.thefire.org/chicago-statement-university-and-faculty-body-support/>
- ✓ Columbia University, university statute <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/vpaa/handbook/appendixb.html>
- ✓ Cornell University, integrated policy on academic freedom and free expression <https://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/the-new-faculty-handbook/statement-on-academic-freedom-and-freedom-of-speech-and-expression/>
- ✓ Georgetown University, section in faculty handbook and as one of faculty rights <https://facultyhandbook.georgetown.edu/section3/c/>
- ✓ Johns Hopkins University, definition and as a faculty right/responsibility <https://provost.jhu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/AcademicFreedomatJohnsHopkins.pdf>; and a 2015 memorandum from both the president and the provost
- ✓ Penn State University, policy including redress of AF-related grievance <https://policy.psu.edu/policies/ac64>
- ✓ University of Michigan, section in faculty handbook (defined as a right and responsibility) <https://www.provost.umich.edu/faculty/handbook/1/1.C.html>
- ✓ University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill, policy/procedure including “impermissible” sanctions and/or grounds of non-reappointment (exercise of AF) <https://academicpersonnel.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1069/2020/02/UNC-Chapel-Hill-Tenure-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf>
- ✓ Washington University of St Louis, policy including redress of AF-related grievance <https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies/academic-policies/tenure/>