

Library Material Reconsideration Procedures

Our Library's mission is to select and acquire a wide variety of materials for access by all Library patrons. The Library seeks to provide information on all sides of every issue, even if that issue is a controversial one. Librarians do not serve as censors for any materials or for any age group, since we believe that everyone, regardless of age, should be free to form their own opinion. Therefore, we support equal access to all materials in our Library collections. When a patron wishes to lodge a concern over material the library owns...

- Library personnel are courteous to any complainant, making no commitment to remove material.
- The standard response should be pleasant, not argumentative, thanking the patron for his/her concern, reminding the patron that the academic library serves the entire academic body.
- Persons requesting permission to examine materials may examine such materials in the Library in a way that does not disrupt normal operation.
- If the patron wishes to pursue a complaint, the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form is given to him/her.
- The staff person will notify the Library Director of the complaint. The Library Director or his/her designee will contact the complainant.
- If the situation remains unresolved after contact, the President or Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs request review of the challenged material by the Library Advisory Committee within 15 business days of the Library Director's contacting the complainant.
 - The Advisory Committee will be composed of at least one individual from each of the following categories: Athens State University faculty; Athens State University librarian; Athens State University student; Athens or Limestone County community member.
- The Committee takes the following steps after receiving the challenged materials:
 - Reads the entire book, views, or listens to the material in its entirety.
 - Checks the general acceptance of the material by reading reviews and consulting recommended lists.
 - Consults faculty from the appropriate department to determine the extent to which the material supports the curriculum.
 - Completes the appropriate "Checklist for Advisory Committee's Reconsideration of Material", judging the material for its strength and value as whole and not in part.

Upon receipt of the checklist, the President or Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs makes a decision as to action to be taken and notifies the complainant and the Library Advisory Committee of the decision made.