

Academic Freedom and Free Intellectual Inquiry

Preamble:

Academic freedom is 'the freedom to conduct research, teach, speak, and publish, subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth and understanding may lead.' (Global Colloquium of University Presidents).

In its Statement on Academic Freedom and University Independence, the National Tertiary Education Union, Australia stated that “academic freedom is a right and responsibility of all staff and students and underpins the creation and dissemination of new knowledge. Academic freedom is central to the mission of each university and must not be undermined by commercial activities or government interference.”

Australian Institute of Business (AIB) subscribes to this statement.

Purpose:

To set out guidelines for academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry for AIB staff and students

Scope:

AIB academic staff and students

Detail:

1. Academic staff

AIB as an institution of higher learning, recognizes the importance of challenging accepted ideas, encouraging vigorous debate, and supporting the development and testing of theories. Its academic staff therefore have the right and duty to exercise their own professional judgment in engaging in teaching and research, and to disseminate the results of that research, without undue interference from any other party provided that the rights of other parties are respected and there is no breach of any relevant legislation.

In particular, academic staff have the right to:

- undertake scholarship that informs their teaching and conduct research that leads to the creation of new knowledge and original creative endeavour; and
- participate in determining the treatment of intellectual and practical issues in the subjects they teach, to provide a balanced presentation that enhances student learning.

These rights are incorporated into employment contracts with academic staff.

2. Students

As members of a community of scholars, students should be encouraged to develop a capacity for critical judgment and sustained and independent search for truth. Freedom to learn depends upon appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom and in the larger community.

Students have the right to freedom of speech and they should be encouraged to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them, and express opinions publicly as well as privately.

Related Forms:

Contracts and Arrangements Compliance Checklist

Responsibility:

Director, Corporate Affairs

Related Policies:

Nil

Current Status	Version 2
Approved By:	Academic Board
Date of Approval:	1 July 2011
Previous version:	9 December 2008