

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND FREE INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY POLICY

### Purpose

This policy sets out guidelines for academic freedom and free intellectual inquiry for Australian Institute of Business (AIB) staff and students.

Academic freedom can be defined as “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 2005)<sup>1</sup>.

The National Tertiary Education Union (2018) states that “Academic freedom is central to the mission of all Australian universities and is internationally acknowledged as an essential and defining characteristic of university education. The particularities of a university education, as opposed to secondary education, lie in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge, the link between teaching and research and in promoting independent thought and critical inquiry. Academic freedom is central to providing this type of education.”<sup>2</sup>

In its statement on academic freedom, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO 1997) states that academics have “the right without constriction by prescribed doctrine, to freedom of teaching and discussion, freedom in carrying out research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof.”<sup>3</sup>

The Australian Institute of Business (AIB) subscribes to these statements.

### Scope

This policy applies to all AIB academic staff and students.

### Definitions

Unless otherwise defined in this document, all capitalised terms are defined in the [glossary](#).

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<sup>1</sup> First Global Colloquium of University Presidents, *Academic Freedom Statement of the First Global Colloquium of University Presidents*, Columbia University 18-19 January 2005, viewed 11 October 2019

<http://www.columbia.edu/~md2221/academicstatement.doc>

<sup>2</sup> NTEU 15 August 2018, *NTEU Submission to the Senate Education to the Employment and Workplace Relations Committee Inquiry into Academic Freedom*, viewed 11 October 2019,

[https://www.nteu.org.au/indigenous\\_ed/article/Inquiry-into-Academic-Freedom---August-2008-174](https://www.nteu.org.au/indigenous_ed/article/Inquiry-into-Academic-Freedom---August-2008-174)

<sup>3</sup> ILO/UNESCO, ‘VI. Rights and Freedoms of higher-education teaching personnel’ in *Recommendation Concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel* 1997 pp. 58-59, viewed 11 October,

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/--sector/documents/normativeinstrument/wcms\\_493315.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/--sector/documents/normativeinstrument/wcms_493315.pdf)

## Policy

### 1. Academic staff

- 1.1. AIB, as an institution of higher learning, recognises 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. The policy relates specifically to the academic freedom to speak to media, including social media, in the areas identified set out in this policy but does not infer a right to speak on behalf of AIB. Internal AIB Communication should only be used for the intended purpose.
- 1.2. In particular, academic staff have the right to:
  - (a) undertake scholarship that informs their teaching and conduct research that leads to the creation of new knowledge and original creative endeavour; and
  - (b) participate in determining the treatment of intellectual and practical issues in the subjects they teach, to provide a balanced presentation that enhances student learning.
  - (c) to be forthright in the respectful expression of informed views and to be able to express these views free from undue institutional constraint.
- 1.3. These rights are incorporated into employment contracts with academic staff.

### 2. Students

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. 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 Policies and Procedures

Academic Facilities Policy and Procedure

AIB Staff Code of Conduct (internal)

Acceptable Use of Information Technology Facilities Policy and Guidelines For Students

Acceptable Use of Information Technology Facilities Policy and Guidelines For Staff (internal)

Staff Code of Conduct (internal)

Student Code of Conduct Policy and Procedure

Whistleblower Policy (internal)

### Responsibility

Academic Dean



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