



FREEDOM OF INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY POLICY

Approving Authority	Council	Approval Date of Last Revision	22 Jun 2023
Approval Date	23 Feb 2018	Effective Date of Last Revision	22 Jun 2023
Effective Date	23 Feb 2018	Review Date*	30 Jun 2028
Document No	PLA11	Version	2.0
Policy Category	Academic		
Governing Authority	Academic Board		
Responsible Officer	Head of School		
Related Documents	Staff Code of Conduct Staff Discipline Procedure Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021		

* Unless otherwise indicated, this Policy will still apply beyond the review date.

Document Control

Version #	Date	Key changes
1.0	23/02/2018	Approved by Academic Board
1.0a	6/05/2019	Format revised
2.0	22 Jun 2023	Replaced references to the 2015 Threshold Standards with the 2021 Higher Education Standards Framework. The next review date was updated to reflect the date set by the Council at its Meeting 2/2023.

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The Freedom of Intellectual Inquiry Policy outlines Adelaide Institute of Higher Education's (AIHE's) commitment to the protection, promotion and exercise of freedom of intellectual inquiry within AIHE.

2. SCOPE

2.1 This Policy applies to all academic staff and affiliates at AIHE.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 AIHE recognises and values the right to freedom of intellectual inquiry as central to its endeavours in scholarship, teaching and research and is committed to its promotion and protection within AIHE.

4. PRINCIPLES

4.1 AIHE supports the right of its scholars to engage in critical inquiry and robust and unfettered critical debate.

4.2 AIHE recognises and promotes a diversity of opinion and the right to express that opinion freely.

4.3 Freedom of intellectual inquiry includes the rights of all academic staff to:

- a. exercise the right of freedom of intellectual inquiry without fear of harassment, bullying, intimidation or unfair treatment;
- b. speak, write and publish, or perform, create and exhibit in their area of expertise, without being subject to AIHE sanction, censorship or discipline; and
- c. express unpopular or controversial views, although this does not mean the right to harass, vilify or intimidate other persons or to demean alternate points of view.

4.4 There is a duty and obligation on academic staff to act responsibly and in good faith in the exercise of the right to freedom of intellectual inquiry. Academic staff must exercise professional care and competence in the conduct of teaching and research, subject academic work to the critical scrutiny of others, consider the impact that their work may have on others, and not impinge on the ability of others to engage freely in teaching and learning, research, and academic debate.

4.5 Freedom of intellectual inquiry is not a defence for acting unlawfully or for poor behaviour or disrespectful treatment of others and in their exercise of freedom of intellectual inquiry academic staff will always observe the Staff Code of Conduct.

4.6 By recognising, promoting, and supporting the right to freedom of intellectual inquiry AIHE does not imply endorsement of views expressed by academic staff. Any views expressed by an individual are the views of the academic staff member even though an affiliation with AIHE is indicated. Views on behalf of AIHE can only be expressed by designated AIHE spokespersons and members of the AIHE Executive because of the position they hold or by other AIHE staff if specifically authorised to do so.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Council is responsible for approving and monitoring compliance with the Policy.

5.2 Academic Board is responsible for advising Council on matters relating to freedom of intellectual inquiry at AIHE.

5.3 Academic staff are responsible for:

- upholding a commitment to academic standards, including academic integrity, rigour in the construction of arguments, and the appropriate use of evidence;
- exercising intellectual freedom within the parameters of legislative and internal policy requirements, and their obligations within the organisational context of AIHE;
- fostering intellectually vigorous and open discussion in all forums, adhering to the standards of scholarship, and avoiding actions that may inhibit freedom of inquiry and expression; and
- undertaking discourse reasonably and in good faith, with declarations of conflicts of interest where appropriate. When speaking in public, staff should consider whether it is appropriate to link their comments to their role and relationship with AIHE.

6. DEFINITIONS

6.1 See the AIHE Glossary of Terms for definitions.