

Policy Link		Nil		
Responsible Officer		Principal		
Superseded Documents		Statement on Academic Freedom (2007)		
Associated Documents		Faculty Research Policy Faculty Handbook (Appendix D) Research Active Policy Faculty Code of Conduct Student Code of Conduct Academic Grievance (Appeals) Policy		
Review Date		October 2022		
Version	Endorsed By	Authorised By	Approval Date	Effective Date
1.0	The Principal	Governing Board	16/11/2017	16/11/2017

1. PURPOSE

This policy gives expression to Moore College’s commitment to provide an academic environment in which genuine intellectual inquiry and freedom of expression are valued and all ideas may be subjected to critical inquiry. This policy incorporates amendments to legislation.

2. BACKGROUND

Moore College is a faith-based institution in which genuine rigorous critical inquiry is not seen to be in conflict with confessional responsibility. Academic freedom does not require neutrality but rather allows room for commitment. Conversely, that commitment, and each component part of it, must be open to honest examination and evaluation against appropriate criteria.

One of the published values of the College is ‘Freedom of Enquiry’ defined as ‘the freedom to subject all ideas to honest inquiry’. This means in practice that no student will be penalised because the opinions expressed in his or her work are outside the confessional convictions of Sydney Anglicanism or evangelical theology more generally. Where intellectual rigour and sound argument with a proper appeal to evidence are employed, the work will be rewarded appropriately.

The teaching faculty of the College enjoy the fair exercise of academic freedom alongside their commitment to the confessional position of the College in all their research and teaching. As Moore College is an evangelical College, such a commitment involves, first and foremost, a recognition that the final authority in matters of faith and life is the teaching of Scripture, adduced from a plain reading of its words in context. As the College is an Anglican College, it operates within the confessional context provided by the 39 Articles of Religion, to which the majority of its faculty have subscribed at their ordination.

3. SCOPE

This Policy applies across the College including all students studying at any level and by any mode in the College.

DEFINITIONS

This section sets out definitions for key terms and acronyms referred to in the Policy.

Term	Definition
Research	The discovery of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understanding. This includes synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it leads to new and creative outcomes. (after <i>HERDC</i>)
Students	For this policy student includes all students studying at any level and by any mode in the College.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1 The Governing Board of the College is responsible to ‘develop and maintain an environment in which freedom of intellectual inquiry is upheld and protected’ (Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015).
- 4.2 All who study, teach and research in the College are free to pursue any question, to engage with the widest possible range of scholarship, and to subject any idea, argument or conviction to honest examination and evaluation against appropriate criteria.
- 4.3 The Academic Board, through its various committees, will endeavour to protect students and faculty from all undue interference and inappropriate pressure that might restrict academic freedom and from penalty or academic disadvantage as a result of exercising that freedom.
- 4.4 The exercise of freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression is subject to law, research ethics, and the values, policies and codes of conduct of the College.
- 4.5 The teaching faculty of the College exercise their academic freedom alongside and without conflict with their commitment to the authority of Scripture as the written word of God, and the evangelical, reformed Anglicanism that stands as the confessional position of the College.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015. Corporate Governance Section 6.1.4.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The Principal and the Academic Board are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following documents are acknowledged in the review of this policy:

Macquarie University. *Academic Freedom Statement*. 26 July 2016.

TEQSA. *Corporate Governance*. TEQSA Guidance Note [n.d]

University of Melbourne. *Academic Freedom of Expression Policy* (MPF1224). V. 3, 21 July 2016.

University of Notre Dame. *Academic Freedom Policy Statement* [n.d]

8. REVIEW AND HISTORY

Version	Approved By	Approval Date	Effective Date	Sections modified
1.0	Governing Board	16/11/2017	16/11/2017	New policy