FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM POLICY

Policy Number: COR 1.12
Name of Policy: Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Policy (Issue Three)
Applicability: All Staff, Students and Visitors
Policy Owner: Chair, Academic Senate
Contact Person: Chair, Academic Senate
Policy Status: Approved Policy
Date created: 4 October 2013
Date last amended: 24 July 2019
Date last exposed: 5 June 2019
Date last reviewed: 
Date of next review: 24 July 2022
Related policies: Media Policy (CPR 2.01)
Social Media Policy (COR 4.03)
Code of Conduct (HRP 3.05)
Student Charter

1. CONTEXT
Bond University recognises that the protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom within the academy has been and will be of major benefit to human society and to the development of knowledge as a whole.

Bond University acknowledges that universities have a special role as institutions dedicated to free, open and critical expression across the full scope of human knowledge and endeavour. Central to this role is the freedom of Staff and students to teach, research, debate and learn independent of external circumstance and pressure.

Bond University is committed to supporting critical and free inquiry, and informed intellectual discourse and public debate on our campuses and amongst our Staff, students and visitors.

2. THE POLICY
2.1. Right to Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom
Section 2.1 is subject to the provisions of Section 2.2 of the Policy.

A core value of Bond University is to preserve, defend and promote the principles of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom in the conduct of its affairs, so that all Staff, students and visitors at the University are free to engage in critical inquiry, scholarly and scientific endeavour, and public discourse without fear or favour.

Accordingly, the University supports the right of all Staff, students and visitors at the University to search for truth and to hold and express diverse opinions. It recognises that scholarly and scientific debate should be robust and uninhibited. It recognises also that members of the Bond community are entitled to express their ideas and opinions.

Every member of the academic staff and every student enjoys Freedom Of Speech and Academic Freedom subject only to prohibitions, restrictions or conditions imposed by:

- law;
- reasonable and proportionate regulation necessary to the discharge of the University's teaching and research activities;
- the right and freedom of others to express themselves and to hear and receive information and opinions;
- reasonable and proportionate regulation necessary to discharge the University's Duty to Foster the Wellbeing of Staff and Students;

COR 1.12 Academic Freedom Policy (Issue 3)
reasonable and proportionate regulation to enable the University to give effect to its legal duties; and
the University by way of its reasonable requirements as to the courses to be delivered and the
content and means of their delivery.

2.2. Responsibilities
The right to Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom carries the following responsibilities.

Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom must:
 be conducted reasonably, professionally and in good faith;
 be conducted in accordance with principles of academic and research ethics;
 include transparent reasoning and references so that those who wish to respond have a basis
to do so; and
 make clear affiliations, sources, funding, and potential conflicts of interest where applicable.

In commenting publicly, Staff of Bond University must act according to the rights and responsibilities set out
within this Policy, the University’s Media Policy, and other relevant University policies and regulations. Where
Staff are commenting on topics outside their area of professional expertise, they should not link their
comments to their association with the University. Staff holding multiple roles should make clear which
role they are representing when making a statement.

3. DEFINITIONS

Academic Freedom
Academic freedom, for the purposes of this Policy, comprises the following elements:
 the freedom of academic staff to teach, discuss, and research and to disseminate
and publish the results of their research;
 the freedom of academic staff and students to engage in intellectual inquiry, to
express their opinions and beliefs, and to contribute to public debate, in relation
to their subjects of study and research;
 the freedom of academic staff and students to express their opinions in relation to
the higher education provider in which they work or are enrolled;
 the freedom of academic staff, without constraint imposed by reason of their
employment by the University, to make lawful public comment on any issue in
their personal capacities;
 the freedom of academic staff to participate in professional or representative
academic bodies;
 the freedom of students to participate in student societies and associations;
 the autonomy of Bond University in relation to the choice of academic programs
and subject offerings, the ways in which they are taught and the choices of
research activities and the ways in which they are conducted.

Duty to Foster the wellbeing of staff and students
 includes the duty to ensure that no member of staff and no student suffers unfair
disadvantage or unfair adverse discrimination on any basis recognised at law
including race, gender, sexuality, religion and political belief;
 includes the duty to ensure that no member of staff and no student is subject to
threatening or intimidating behaviour by another person or persons on account of
anything they have said or proposed to say in exercising their freedom of speech;
 supports reasonable and proportionate measures to prevent any person from
using lawful speech which a reasonable person would regard, in the
circumstances, as likely to humiliate or intimidate other persons and which is
intended to have either or both of those effects;
 does not extend to a duty to protect any person from feeling offended or shocked
or insulted by the lawful speech of another.

Speech
Extends to all forms of expressive conduct including oral speech and written, artistic,
musical and performing works and activity and communication using social media;
the word ‘speak’ has a corresponding meaning.

Staff
All paid, honorary and volunteer staff of the University, including academic, emeritus,
adjunct, executive, professional and general staff members.

4. RELATED PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES AND FORMS