

**BOND UNIVERSITY**

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10 December 2018

Secretariat for Review of Freedom of Speech Quality and Access Branch

Higher Education Group

Australian Department of Education and Training Email: freedomofspeechreview@education.gov.au

Dear Secretariat

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Freedom of Speech Review in Australian Higher Education announced by the Hon Dan Tehan MP on 14 November 2018.

Bond University has a deep and abiding commitment to the principles of free expression and the expectation of unhindered intellectual inquiry. Our commitment to *"Truth, inquiry and the purswt of advanced know/edge"features* prominently within our institutional values1, alongside concepts of respect, excellence, accountability and collaboration.

Bond students are taught the value of open and critical discussion and positively encouraged to participate. The Student Chart er2 states that *"Students as individuals can expect to be able to communicate freely and to be able to voice alternative points of view in rational debate'* More broadly, the Student Charter also shows respect for the student voice by ensuring their representation on University committees and involvement in formal processes.

Intellectual enquiry and freedom of expression, through the ability to critically evaluate, manage, reflect on, integrate and apply the knowledge acquired, are also embedded within the University's Graduate Att ributes3 • This critical practice also sits within CORE curriculum subjects4 that all undergraduate students must take at the commencement of their program, which include *Ethical Thought and Action* and *Critical Thinking and Communication.*

Our commitment to free expression and intellectual inquiry is, for students, reinforced by the Student Code of Conduct. The Bond University Regulatio ns5 state that students are expected to *"behave in a way that allows reasonable freedom to others to pursue their studies, researches, duties and other lawful activities in the University and on its sites, and to participate in the life of the University"* [Part 3, 5(2)(a)]. Any activity that *''impairs the reasonable freedom of others to pursue their studies, researches, duties and other lawful activities in the University or on the site, or on the site of a partner or affiliate organization, or to participate in the life of the University"is* identified as a form of misconduct for which the student will be made accountable [Schedule B, 1(1)(a)].

1 [https:/ / bond.edu.au/about-bond/university/i ntroducing-bond/bond-mission-strate gic-plan](https://bond.edu.au/about-bond/university/introducing-bond/bond-mission-strategic-plan)

2 [https :/ / bond.edu.au/files/870/student-charter.pdf](https://bond.edu.au/files/870/student-charter.pdf)

3 Knowledge and critical thinking: [http s:/ / bond.edu.au/about-bond/academia/ lea rning-teaching/ graduate -attributes](https://bond.edu.au/about-bond/academia/learning-teaching/graduate-attributes)

4 [https://bond.edu.au/ current-students/st udy-inform ati on/ enrolment/ program-st ructure-and-sequence/core-curricuIum](https://bond.edu.au/current-students/study-information/enrolment/program-structure-and-sequence/core-curriculum)

5 [http s:/ / b ond.edu.au/ files/ 676/ Part 3Disci pRegs.p df](https://bond.edu.au/files/676/Part3DiscipRegs.pdf)

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Bond University's broad commitment is further reinforced by our Academic Freedom Policy, which defines rights and responsibilities for all staff, students and visitors at our University. This policy has recently been updated and is currently in the final stages of consultation. Formal adoption of the new policy, included here as Attachment 1, is expected in early 2019. Attachment 2 provides extracts of two related University Policies.

Yours sincerely



## Professor Tim Brailsford

**Vice-Chancellor and President**



**ACAD EMIC FREEDOM POLICY**

**BOND**

**UNIVERSITY**

# ATTACHMENT 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Policy Number** | COR 1.12 |
| **Name of Policy:** | Academic Freedom Policy (Issue Two) |
| **Applicability:** | All Staff, Students and Visitors |
| **Policy Owner:** | Chair, Academic Senate |
| **Contact Person:** | Chair, Academic Senate |
| **Policy Status:** | Amendment to Approved Policy |
| **Date of approval:** | 4 October 2013 |
| **Date last amended:** | 7 November 2018 |
| **Date last exposed:** | December 2018 |
| **Date last reviewed:** |  |
| **Date of next review:** | February 2022 |
| **Related policies:** | Media Policy (CPR 2.01)Social Media Policy (COR 4.03)Code of Conduct (HRP 3.05) (staff) Student Charter |

1. **CONTEXT**

Bond University recognises that the protection of freedom of inquiry and expression 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.

1. **THE POLICY**
	1. **Right to Academic Freedom of Inquiry and Expression**

Section 2.1 is subject to the provisions of Section 2.2 of the Policy.

* + 1. A core value of Bond University is to preserve, defend and promote the principles of 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 .
		2. 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.
	1. **Responsibilities**

The right to academic freedom of inquiry and expression carries the following responsibilities. Academic inquiry and expression :

* must be conducted reasonably, professionally and in good faith.
* must be conducted lawfully, including in accordance with laws regulating defamation, harassment, vilification and obscene speech, and the provisions of the Privacy Act, the Corporations Act and other legislation.
* must be conducted in accordance with principles of academic and research ethics.
* must include transparent reasoning and references so that those who wish to respond have a basis to do so.

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* must 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 expe rtise, 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.

## DEFINITIONS

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

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**ATTA CHMENT 2**

**EXTRACTS OF TWO RELATED UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Document Name** | **Policy No.** | **Extract** |
| Media Policy | CPR 2.01 | **2.3 Freedom to Speak***The University is committed to academic freedom. Members of the University community are free to contribute to public debate, subject to University's Academic Freedom Policy {COR 1.12) and the law , including the law of defamation, laws regulating harassment , vilification and obscene speech, and the provisions of the Privacy Act, the Corporations Act and other legislation .* |
| Social Media Policy | COR 4.03 | * + 1. **Personal responsibility**
			1. *Staff and students are personally responsible for anything they publish online. Bond University does not review , edit, censor, or endorse individual posts. Staff members and students of the University must not only consider how their posts reflect on them as an individual, but also about how they reflect on Bond University thus ensuring the University is not brought into disrepute.*
			2. *Bond U niversit y encourages participation in the online social media space, but urges staff and students to do so appropriately, exercising sound judgment and common sense. If there is any doubt as to the suitabilit y of a message , it should not be posted. Post sensibly and responsibly in accordance with Bond U niversity' s policies and guidelines. Anything posted that can potentially tarnish Bond U niversit y' s image will ultimately be the responsibility of the individual staff member or student.*
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