



University of
South Australia

20 December 2018

The Hon Robert S French
Email: freedomofspeechreview@education.gov.au

Dear Hon Robert S. French

In response to your letter of 29 November 2018, requesting university information and examples relevant to the *Review of Freedom of Speech in Higher Education*, I provide the following information and links for the University of South Australia (UniSA):

Existing instruments, university policies and procedures:

1. **UniSA Enterprise Agreement:** <https://i.unisa.edu.au/staff/ptc/employment-conditions/enterprise-agreements/enterprise-agreement/>

Clause 19. Intellectual Freedom

19.1 The University and staff members covered by this Agreement are committed to act in a manner consistent with the protection and promotion of intellectual freedom within the University.

19.2 Intellectual freedom means the freedom of academic staff, and, to the extent consistent with their employment obligations and role, professional staff, to engage in critical inquiry, intellectual discourse and public controversy without fear or favour, but does not include the right to harass, intimidate or vilify.

2. **Code of Ethical Conduct:** <https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/ethics/>
3. **Student Code of Conduct:** <https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/codes/students/>

See, Principle 4: Respect for the views of others.

4. **Policy: Responsible practice in research:** <https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/research/res-1/>
5. **Policy: Research funded by tobacco companies:** <https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/research/res-14/>

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6. **Policy: Public statements and representation by members of the University staff and students:**
<https://i.unisa.edu.au/policies-and-procedures/university-policies/corporate/c-5/>

Policy scope statement:

The university encourages its staff and students to participate in public discussion in areas of their academic and professional expertise in order to contribute to a more informed society.

Academic freedom of expression also has associated responsibilities and this policy aims to clarify these rights and responsibilities for staff commenting in the public domain, and in particular with reference to their involvement in the media.

7. **UniSA Social Media Guidelines:** <https://i.unisa.edu.au/siteassets/policies-and-procedures/docs/unisasocialmediaguidelines.pdf>

In response to a range of issues in the sector and in the community that have brought a focus on freedom of expression and freedom of intellectual inquiry, UniSA's Academic Board, at its October 2018 meeting, resolved to establish a working group to review and make recommendations regarding the University's current position and policy environment on academic freedom and freedom of expression. Initial findings of the working group are that our policy environment is largely focused upon staff and student freedom of expression and its attendant limitations and that a separate statement of commitment that both defines academic freedom and articulates how it might be properly exercised will assist the University. I anticipate that this review will conclude in early in 2019 and would be happy to discuss further findings with you in the New Year.

I hope the above information is of use, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely



Adrienne Nieuwenhuis

Director: Office of the Vice Chancellor and Strategic Programs