

## FREEDOM OF INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY POLICY

| Policy Category            | Academic   |                                   |                 |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Document Owner             | Dean   |                                   |                 |
| Responsible Officer        | Dean   |                                   |                 |
| Review Date                | 11 July 2024   |                                   |                 |
| References and Legislation | Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (Cth); Higher Education Standards Framework 2021; The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research |                                   |                 |
| Related Documents          | APIC Consitution, APIC Board of Directors Charter, APIC Academic Governance Charter  |                                   |                 |
| Version                    | Change description   | Approved                          | Effective Date  |
| 1.0                        |  | 10 July 2017                      | July 2017       |
| 1.1                        | Review and update  | Academic Board<br>3 April 2019    | 5 April 2019    |
| 1.2                        | Periodic review and re-formatting  | Academic Board<br>11 October 2021 | 15 October 2021 |
| 1.3                        | Minor changes to the job titles and extension of review date   | CEO<br>11 July 2023               | 11 July 2023    |

### 1. Purpose

This Policy describes and defines APIC's commitment to freedom of intellectual inquiry.

### 2. Scope

This Policy applies to all academic staff, adjunct, honorary and visiting appointees at Asia Pacific International College (APIC). This document should be read in conjunction with other related policies (see Related Documents).

### 3. Definitions

| Item                        | Definition  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Academic staff</i>       | An appointed staff member whose primary role is teaching, research, and/or senior management at the College.  |
| <i>Adjunct appointment</i>  | A medium-term (i.e. 12-24 months), usually non-salaried, academic appointment from another higher education institution to the College who is appointed to lecture in an area that the adjunct has a demonstrated expertise in. |
| <i>Honorary appointment</i> | A voluntary, usually non-salaried, academic appointment of esteemed individual(s) from other higher education institutions or businesses to the College for academic cooperation and collaboration.                             |

| Item                        | Definition  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Intellectual inquiry</i> | Questioning to determine thought and reason to gain a better understanding and contribute to knowledge.   |
| <i>Visiting appointment</i> | A short-term (i.e., less than 12 months), usually non-salaried, academic appointment from another higher education institution to the College who is appointed to lecture and/or facilitate cross-institutional research in an area that the visitor has a demonstrated expertise in. |

#### 4. Principles of Freedom of Intellectual Inquiry

The following principles form the foundation for this Policy and inform its design and implementation.

- Academic staff members and senior management at the College are experts in their professions, capable of making valuable contributions to public debate. The College acknowledges, accepts, and values the right to freedom of intellectual inquiry as central to its contributions in teaching, research, and scholarship, and is committed to promoting and protecting this freedom.
- In acknowledging, accepting, and valuing the right to freedom of intellectual inquiry the College does not endorse the views expressed by its academic staff. All views expressed by academic staff will be taken to be the views of the individual who expresses them, even when an affiliation with the College is indicated. Views on behalf of the College can only be expressed by its executives if specifically authorised to do so.
- Freedom of intellectual inquiry will not be permitted as a defence for acting unlawfully, disrespectfully, or for the exercise of poor judgement. In their exercise of freedom of intellectual inquiry, academic staff will also always observe the ECA Staff Code of Conduct and act in accordance with the Mission and Values of the College.

#### 5. Rights and Responsibilities

5.1 The right to freedom of intellectual inquiry brings with it a serious responsibility to use the freedom in a reasonable way, balance, measured and honest, and in the pursuit of and dissemination of knowledge and truth.

5.2 The College

5.2.1 The College is responsible for supporting the rights of its academic staff to engage in intellectual inquiry and foster critical debate and conversation. The College will support this right by providing and facilitating a positive environment that promotes, among others:

- robust and collegial debate;
- the testing and sharing of new ideas, theories and topics of interest;
- academic integrity and honesty; (refer [Academic Integrity Policy](#))
- the responsible conduct of research and scholarship; (refer to [Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship Policy](#))
- a diversity of opinion and the right to publicly express that opinion without fear of favourable, unfair or prejudicial treatment; and
- the exercise of professional judgment when engaging in teaching, research, and scholarship.

5.2.2 The College has the right and the obligation to take disciplinary action as necessary against staff and students whose behaviour(s) violate the rights of freedom of intellectual inquiry of others, or who otherwise behave in a manner contrary to this policy or related policies (refer [Academic Integrity Policy](#), [Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship Policy](#), ECA Staff Code of Conduct). All policies are accessible via the APIC Staff Lounge.

### 5.3 Academic staff

5.3.1 Academic staff should expect that their right to hold and express values of their choosing will be respected even when those values are being questioned. Freedom of intellectual inquiry carries the associated responsibility to exercise professional care and competence. In exercising their right to freedom of intellectual inquiry, academic staff will:

- observe the [ECA Staff Code of Conduct](#);
- act in a lawful and ethical manner;
- ensure that all discourse of academic freedom of expression is undertaken reasonably, in good faith, and in accordance with all research ethics considerations as appropriate;
- recognise and acknowledge that they are not speaking on behalf of the College;
- offer opinion and commentary on matters of which they have an acknowledged level of expertise;
- disclose any potential conflicts of interest (e.g., personal and/or professional relationships, and external funding sources);
- accept the critical scrutiny of others; and
- not impinge on the ability of others to engage in academic debate freely.

5.3.2 With and among the student body, in particular, all academic staff will:

- promote freedom of intellectual inquiry, critical thinking, and creative reasoning; and
- encourage, facilitate and support positive, analytical discourse.