

## **Australian Guild of Music Education**

### **Academic Freedom Policy**

Governing authority:	Academic Board
Responsible officer:	Program Director
Date of approval:	28th November 2017
Date of effect:	28th November 2017
Review date	April 2019

#### **1. Purpose**

Academic freedom of lawful speech is the foundation for free intellectual enquiry and one of the defining characteristics of the Australian Guild of Music Education (AGME) as a higher education provider. AGME is committed to promoting and protecting academic freedom and free intellectual enquiry, except as restricted by law, and to protecting staff and students from discrimination or harassment that may arise from exercising their right to freedom of speech. This commitment aligns with the requirements of Provider Registration Standard 4.2 of the Higher Education Standards Framework 2015.

#### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all AGME staff and students, and all members of AGME's governance committees.

#### **3. Commitment to scholarship and academic integrity**

AGME's Strategic Plan and Teaching and Learning Plan articulate a commitment to providing a quality higher education experience. As per Provider Category Standard 1.4, AGME expects its academic teaching staff to exhibit a strong commitment to the scholarship of teaching and learning and to the professional expectations of music as an academic discipline. The pursuit of knowledge through intellectual inquiry is highly valued as a mark of institutional excellence. AGME generates and transfers knowledge and applied skills associated with the discipline and practice of music (French, 2019)<sup>1</sup>. Staff are responsible to uphold high standards of academic integrity in their disciplinary and scholarly activities.

AGME takes a serious view of academic misconduct and will undertake disciplinary proceedings with staff alleged to have misrepresented personal performance, or to have obstructed others in the pursuit of their academic endeavours.

---

<sup>1</sup> 1 French, R. S. (2019). Report of the independent review of freedom of speech in Australian higher education providers.

#### **4. Respect for academic freedom**

Academic freedom and its related responsibilities are recognised and practiced by AGME. AGME ensures that the rights of students and staff to hold and express values and opinions of their own choosing will be respected. Scholarly inquiry is encouraged, and AGME academic staff members are free to express a public opinion within the area of their expertise.

AGME staff members are also free to make public comment when speaking or writing as private citizens without using their institutional affiliation. In these circumstances, staff are expected to demonstrate academic and scholarly rigour by ensuring accuracy, respecting the opinions of others, and making every effort to indicate that they are not speaking on behalf of AGME.

Academic freedom carries associated responsibilities to exercise professional care and competence in the conduct of teaching and research, to subject academic work to the critical scrutiny of others, to use inclusive language in oral presentations and written work, to consider the impact that one's work may have on others, and not to impinge on the ability of others to engage freely in teaching and learning, research, and academic debate.

#### **5. Related policies and procedures**

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Staff Performance Management Policy

#### **6. Review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Academic Board or as considered necessary.