

## 1. Policy Statement

As academic freedom and free intellectual enquiry are the cornerstone of critical enquiry, Sydney Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine (“SITCM”) is committed to the promotion of these interlinking concepts. The overarching statement of this commitment lies within SITCM’s Mission and Goals which states that SITCM seeks to “educate, promote and unlock the power of traditional Chinese medicine through the delivery of high quality, accredited higher education courses”. Furthermore, one of the key functions of the Academic Board, as espoused in its terms of reference, is to “facilitate free intellectual enquiry and ensure academic integrity”.

SITCM expects its academic staff to exhibit a strong commitment to scholarship and the professional expectations of their academic disciplines. The pursuit of knowledge through intellectual inquiry is highly valued as a mark of institutional excellence.

Academic freedom and its related responsibilities as recognised and practised by SITCM have their fundamental basis in the culture commonly found in Australian universities and other institutions of higher education. Specifically, academic staff and students are entitled to full freedom in any scholarly activity they pursue. Furthermore, academic staff are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, however they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.

When speaking or writing as private citizens, academic staff should be free from institutional censorship or discipline. However, academic staff should keep in mind that as scholars the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Therefore, they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for SITCM.

Students and staff must have a reasonable expectation that their right to hold values of their own choosing will be respected even when those values are being questioned. 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 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.

## 2. Version control

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### Version History

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1.0	Academic Board	24 March 2011	Document creation
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