



<b>SUBJECT:</b>  <b>Academic Freedom</b>	<b>CATEGORY:</b>  <b>Academic Programming</b>	<b>NO.</b>  <b>102</b>
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### PREAMBLE

SIAS’s mission is to share knowledge, provide quality education and skills training and engage in applied research, meeting the needs of students, employers and communities. SIAS recognizes that to meet its mission and support its values, the principles associated with academic freedom are to be acknowledged as an essential part of the institution. The purpose of this policy is to protect originality of scholarly investigation, acknowledge responsibility for academic rigor and uphold the responsible sharing of ideas in teaching, learning and research by fostering independent thinking and expression. The advancement of our communities depends on the freedom to ask questions in search of knowledge.

### POLICY

SIAS will promote and cultivate a culture of academic freedom. SIAS supports academic freedom as an essential part of teaching, learning, discussion, scholarly activities, creative works and research. SIAS acknowledges the right and privilege of faculty and staff to use freedom of inquiry, discussion and expression in teaching, creative works, scholarly activities and research without fear of reprisal. SIAS expects its community to exercise academic freedom dutifully. With freedom, comes responsibility. Academic freedom does not relieve anyone from obligations related to their fundamental role in teaching, learning, research and scholarship and within an environment of tolerance and mutual respect.

This policy is applied in conjunction with policy 703 *Code of Conduct* which recognizes and supports academic freedom. SIAS recognizes that issues of intellectual property ownership will be guided by SIAS policy #109. *Intellectual Property* and will take precedence over the Academic Freedom policy.

This policy is bound by applicable laws and institutional policies reflecting those laws.

### PRINCIPLES

#### **1.0 Research, Creative Works and Scholarly Activity**

- 1.1 When engaged in research, scholarly activities or creative works, faculty members at SIAS have important freedoms and privileges. These freedoms include:

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- freedom of inquiry,
- the right to publish and disseminate the results of research and scholarly activities,
- freedom to challenge conventional thought, and
- freedom from institutional censorship.

1.2 All faculty members engaged in research, creative works or scholarly activities will accept responsibility to meet professional and ethical standards and comply with policies.

## 2.0 Teaching, Learning and Discussion

SIAST supports the rights and privilege of individuals to communicate acquired knowledge in instruction.

2.1 In all teaching and learning environments used by SIAST, faculty members may present and discuss relevant matters related to the achievement of learning outcomes in the courses being taught.

2.2 Faculty members have the discretion to develop courses and assessments and select materials, media and learning technology where, when and how they deem appropriate within program and institutional guidelines and policies and within the limits of available resources. A legal accrediting body who governs the right to practice has the right to specify requirements related to content and teaching methods essential to gaining or maintaining accreditation or licensure.

2.3 Faculty and staff may speak or write, engage in open dialogue, express opinion, pursue truth and/or advance knowledge without fear of reprisal.

2.4 Faculty and staff are responsible for honesty and accuracy in discussion and activities showing respect for the opinion of others.

2.5 All members of the SIAST community will support and protect the fundamental principle of academic freedom and will work together to provide an environment of tolerance and mutual respect through the use of respectful communication that values both dignity of others and difference of opinion.

Related policies:

1101 *Applied Research Integrity*  
 1102-G *Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants*  
 601-G *Harassment and Discrimination*  
 703 *Code of Conduct*

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