

# **Academic Freedom Policy**

Approved By: President

Effective Date: December 4, 2023

## **1. Background**

The purpose of this policy is to express the commitment of the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST) to academic freedom.

The policy on academic freedom draws on the examples and endorses the principles of internationally recognized statements including:

- the American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure.
- the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher Education Teaching Personnel November 11, 1997; and
- the EHEA Rome Ministerial Communique November 2020.

## **2. Academic Freedom**

OIST administration is responsible to establish and protect academic freedom for all its academic community, meaning freedom in respect of research, teaching and learning, and the dissemination of research and teaching outcomes within and outside the higher education sectors, without fear of reprisal.

### **Research**

OIST's academic freedom gives the academic community the right, consistent with professional and ethical standards of the respective discipline and in accordance with accepted standards of scholarly practice, to study and do research on the topics they choose, to decide how to conduct the research and for what purpose, to draw what conclusions they find consistent with their research, and to decide how to disseminate their research findings. OIST leadership and faculty should oppose efforts by corporate or government sponsors to block dissemination of any research findings including students' PhD theses.

### **Employment and promotion**

OIST academic staff's employment conditions will be sufficiently secure to enable them to exercise academic freedom. Members of the academic community should never suffer threats, dismissal, or other sanctions in relation to the content of their research, teaching, or stated professional views.

### **Charges against OIST researchers.**

Charges against a faculty member or OIST researchers that can lead to dismissal will be considered by a committee including faculty and OIST administration. The accused researcher has the right to due process (including being informed before the hearing in writing of all the charges), the right to present their case, and the right, if they choose, to be accompanied by an advisor and/or assisted by an attorney.

### **Teaching**

Academic staff have the right to decide how to teach the courses for which they are responsible, subject to accepted professional principles including professional responsibility and intellectual rigor with regard to standards and methods of teaching.

### **Access to the profession**

Access to the higher education academic profession should be based solely on academic qualifications, competence and experience and equal for all members of society without any discrimination. [cross refer to [OIST diversity statement](#)]

### **Governance**

OIST's governance defined by its constitution, policies and procedures, will be aligned in ways that respect academic freedom, allowing academic staff and students to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes and to express their views on the university's policies and priorities without fear of reprisals.

### **Freedom of expression**

N.B. deal with freedom of speech in separate document.