



## Procedure

Procedure Name	<b><i>Academic Freedom in Research</i></b>		
Procedure #	RI 1.01	Parent Policy	RI 1.0: Academic Freedom in Research
Policy Owner	VP Academic, Neil Fassina	Effective Date	December 16, 2015
Procedure Owner	AVP Research & Innovation, Chris Dambrowitz	Review Date	December 2018
Approved by	AVP Research & Innovation	Approval Date	December 16, 2015

### 1.0 Purpose/ Background

NAIT is responsible to nurture and maintain a culture of academic freedom. The privilege of academic freedom is extended in the context of academic integrity and responsibility in the conduct of research, inquiry and other scholastic pursuits.

### 2.0 General Principles

Academic freedom in research confers the following rights with their attendant responsibilities: Research, Publication and other Scholarly Activity – Faculty members are free to propose research topics, to establish an experimental design, to collect and analyze data and to publish the results without censure or inappropriate influence on the part of the Institute. Governance – Faculty have the right to participate in the governance of the Institute, by occupying positions on bodies such as Applied Research Committees. They are free to offer advice and criticism on matters of policy and strategic directions of the Institute.

### 3.0 Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Academic Freedom in Research</b>	Academic freedom in research is the freedom to conduct research, to publish the results of research, to produce and perform creative works, to responsibly challenge prevailing opinion and to participate in academic research bodies without interference, censure or retribution from the Institute or its management.
<b>Academic Integrity</b>	Academic integrity is a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Fairness, Respect and Responsibility. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*, The Centre for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999

<b>Academic Responsibility</b>	Academic responsibility relates to adherence to respect for evidence, impartial reasoning and honesty in evaluation and reporting.
<b>Applied Research</b>	Applied research is a systematic investigation and discovery of knowledge that results in an immediate and identifiable impact on the potential commercial, environmental, or social value of a technology.
<b>Basic Research</b>	Basic research is experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view. <sup>2</sup>
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty refers to any member of the NAIT Academic Staff Association.
<b>Research</b>	Research is a systematic investigation to establish facts, principles or generalizable knowledge.

#### 4.0 Procedures for Addressing Infringement of Academic Freedom in Research

In the event that a staff member or student contends that his/her academic freedom has been infringed upon:

- 4.1 The Provost & Vice President, Academic shall strike an ad hoc committee to hear and rule on such complaints as they are advanced.
- 4.2 The ad hoc committee shall be comprised of two members of the NAIT Academic Staff Association and two members as chosen by the Provost & Vice President, Academic.
- 4.3 By plurality, these members shall then select a 5th member to join the committee. The five members, so constituted shall elect a Chair.

Any and all decisions achieved by the ad hoc committee shall be delivered in writing by the Chair to the person(s) that had advanced the complaint, to the executive of the faculty association and to the Provost & Vice President.

#### 5.0 Exceptions to the Procedure

- 5.1 Exceptions to this procedure must be documented and formally approved by the Policy Lead.  
Procedure exceptions must include:
  - The nature of the exception
  - A reasonable explanation for why the procedure exception is required
  - Confirmation that the exception aligns with the general principles
  - Any risks created by the procedure exception and how they will be managed.

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<sup>2</sup> OECD Frascati Manual, Sixth edition, 2002, para. 64, page 30.

**6.0 Related Documents**  
RI 1 0 Academic Freedom in Research Policy

***Document History***

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action/ Change</i>
Mmm/dd/2015	New template format; procedure replaces previous version.
Apr/12/2007	Original Procedure Approval