



## **AOP 13.11: ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to provide an understanding and standardization of the policy dealing with Academic Freedom.

### **REVIEW**

This AOP will be reviewed every four years (or whenever circumstances require an earlier review) by the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs (APAA) with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President.

### **POLICY/PROCEDURE**

Mississippi State University recognizes the fact that in the republic of scholars there are certain indisputable rights to freedom of expression. The University encourages the search for knowledge and truth, and does not abridge the scholar's right to reveal his/her finding through appropriate channels by spoken and written word, visual displays, artifacts, or performances (e.g. artistic, musical, theatrical) even if in doing so he/she may find variances with students and professional peers, as well as with the lay community. The scholar must however, recognize the fact that he/she is also the possessor of opinions, some of which may be subject to human frailty of bias and error. As a free citizen, he/she has the right to express these opinions. The degree to which one expresses them as a scholar, claiming sanctuary in the University is a matter of academic responsibility.

**This policy has been superseded**

**REVIEWED BY:**

/s/ Peter L. Ryan  
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

09/18/2018  
Date

/s/ Judy Bonner  
Provost and Executive Vice President

09/18/2018  
Date

/s/ Randolph F. Follett  
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate

08/27/2018  
Date

/s/ Timothy N. Chamblee  
Assistant Vice President and Director  
Institutional Research and Effectiveness

10/18/2018  
Date

/s/ Joan Lucas  
General Counsel

10/17/2018  
Date

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Mark Keenum  
President

10/22/2018  
Date

**This policy has been superseded**