ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE POLICY

Version	1.01	Number of pages	5
Responsible officer	Chief Academic Officer		
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Approved by	Morling College Board		
Responsible body	Academic Board		
Keywords	Academic governance; Responsibility; Authority; Delegation; Compliance; Quality; Teaching; Courses		
Access level *Select from the drop-down menu*	Public		
Dissemination Range	Staff, Academic Board		
Approval date	28 July 2020		
Effective date	28 July 2020		
Review date	August 2024		
Superseded documents	None		
Higher Education Standard	HES_6.3		
Document classification *Select from the drop-down menu*	Academic		

1. PURPOSE

To delineate key roles and responsibilities with respect to the academic governance of Morling College.

2. DEFINITIONS

Key Term or Acronym	Definition
AB	Academic Board
Academic Governance	"A subset of the overall governance of a higher education provider. Academic governance deals with the framework that regulates providers' academic decisions and quality assurance. Academic governance includes the policies, processes, definitions of roles, relationships, systems, strategies and resources that ensure academic standards and continuous improvement in academic activities. It is concerned with the integrity and quality of the core higher

	education activities of teaching, research and scholarship." (https://www.teqsa.gov.au/glossary-terms)
ACT	Australian College of Theology
HEP	Higher Education Provider
HESF	Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015 (HES Framework)
LTC	Learning and Teaching Committee
MC	Morling College
RC	Research Committee
TEQSA	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

3. CONTEXT AND SCOPE

Morling College (MC) is a registered Higher Education Provider (HEP: PRV12034) of accredited courses in Education, Counselling and Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care. MC also offers coursework awards and Higher Degree Research (HDR) training in Theology (AQF 5-10), accredited through a third party arrangement with the Australian College of Theology (ACT), and Higher Degree Research training in Theology (AQF 9-10). Consequently, MC's academic governance arrangements will incorporate the appropriate requirements for each area according to the relevant accrediting authority.

This policy therefore relates primarily to the academic governance of courses offered by Morling as an independent HEP. It also relates to the academic governance of courses offered under third party arrangements with other HEPs, insofar as it touches on the overall quality of learning, teaching, research and research training within MC and requires compliance with the academic governance requirements of the ACT, where applicable.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

Morling College is committed to ensuring the quality and integrity of its teaching, learning, research and research training activities, and to complying with the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework (HESF), other higher education regulations, and the academic governance arrangements of the ACT.

5. PRINCIPLES

Delegations of Responsibility

Academic Board

5.1   The MC Board delegates to the Academic Board (AB) responsibility for overseeing the quality and integrity of its teaching, learning, research and research training activities.

5.2   The responsibilities, membership, terms of office and meeting protocols for the Academic Board are defined in the Academic Board Terms of Reference.

Committees and Panels

5.3   The Academic Board may delegate particular functions and responsibilities within the scope of its authority to committees and panels that it establishes, including the Learning and Teaching Committee and Research Committee, both of which exist as standing committees of the Academic Board.

5.4   The responsibilities, membership, terms of office and meeting protocols for the Learning and Teaching Committee and Research Committee are defined in the Terms of Reference for those two committees.

5.5   In addition to those two committees, the Academic Board may appoint other committees and panels. Such committees and panels receive their authority by delegation from the Academic Board and report to the Academic Board on their activities.

Morling College Staff

5.6   The Academic Board may also delegate functions and responsibilities within the scope of its authority to members of the Morling College staff, who are to report on these matters to the Academic Board.

Independence and Interdependence

Independence

5.7   The AB is to exercise its functions of oversight and scrutiny with rigour and independence of judgement, offering informed and expert advice to the MC Board.

Interdependence

5.8   Where academic and non-academic matters intersect, the AB is to offer its advice to the MC Board on those elements of policy and strategy that have a bearing on the quality and integrity of MC's learning, teaching, research and research training.

5.9   The primary channels of communication between the AB and the MC Board are the reports that the chair of the AB presents to both bodies and the minutes of each AB meeting, which are to be made available in full to the next MC Board meeting. Additional channels of communication include the

presence of the MC Principal as a non-voting member at MC Board meetings, and a standing invitation to the MC Chief Academic Officer to attend meetings of the MC Board in the same capacity. Assessments of academic risk made by the AB are to be made available to the Risk Management Committee, which may add its comments; the MC Board is to receive both the AB's risk assessments and recommendations and the comments of the Risk Management Committee.

Academic Governance Arrangements of other Higher Education Providers

Compliance

5.10   Any learning, teaching, research or research training activities undertaken by Morling College under third party provider arrangements with the ACT, or any other HEP, shall be conducted in accordance with the policies and regulations of the relevant HEP.

Participation

5.11   Where there are opportunities to do so, MC staff, Board members and AB members will participate constructively in the academic governance arrangements of the ACT (and any other HEP with which MC enters into a third party arrangement for learning, teaching, research or research training).

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

[Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015](#) (esp. HESF standard 6.3) (Commonwealth)

[Guidance Note: Academic Governance (TEQSA, Oct 2017)](#) (Commonwealth)

[Higher Education Support Act 2003](#) (Commonwealth)

[Higher Education Provider Guidelines 2012](#) (Commonwealth)

[National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018](#) (Commonwealth)

[Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) 2018 (Commonwealth)

Academic Board Terms of Reference

Learning and Teaching Committee Terms of Reference

Research Committee Terms of Reference

Risk Management Committee Terms of Reference

7. REFERENCES

ACT Academic Governance Policy

Alphacrucis Governance Framework Policy

Western Sydney University Academic Governance Policy

8. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
1.01	Policy Coordinator	Feb 2023	Feb 2023	Removed of University of Divinity (UD) references; Header table updated to latest version, including addition of keywords.
1.0	MC Board	28 July 2020	28 July 2020	New policy

Download this policy anew with each use, as it may have changed.