



ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE POLICY

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1. PURPOSE

To delineate key roles and responsibilities for academic governance at Morling College.

2. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply for the purpose of this policy:

Key Term of 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
Board	The Morling College Board of Directors authorised under the Constitution of the Baptist Churches of NSW and ACT and the Morling Constitution to carry out the governance of Morling College Limited.

IHE	Institute of Higher Education
LTC	Learning and Teaching Committee
LREC	Low-Risk Ethics Committee
MC	Morling College
RC	Research Committee
TEQSA	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

3. SCOPE

Morling College (MC) is a registered Institute of Higher Education (IHE: PRV12034) with self-accrediting status for courses in the broad fields of education 07 Education and 09 Society and Culture at AQF levels 8 and 9.

MC currently offers accredited courses in Education, Counselling, Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care, and Professional Supervision.

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 HDR 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 MC as an independent IHE. It also relates to the academic governance of courses offered under third-party arrangements with other higher education providers, 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 2021* (HESF), other higher education regulations, and the academic governance arrangements of the ACT.

5. PRINCIPLES

DELEGATIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Academic Board

- 5.1 The 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 AB are defined in the *Academic Board Terms of Reference*.

Committees and Panels

- 5.3 The AB may delegate functions and responsibilities within the scope of its authority to committees and panels that it establishes, including the Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC), Research Committee (RC), and Low-Risk Ethics Committee (LREC), which exist as standing committees of the AB.
- 5.4 The responsibilities, membership, terms of office, and meeting protocols for the LTC, RC, and LREC are defined in their respective Terms of Reference documents.
- 5.5 The AB may appoint other committees and panels. Such committees and panels receive their authority by delegation from the AB and report to the AB on their activities.

Morling College Staff

- 5.6 The AB may also delegate functions and responsibilities within the scope of its authority to members of MC staff, who are to report on these matters to the AB.

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 Board.

Interdependence

- 5.8 Where academic and non-academic matters intersect, the AB is to advise the 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 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 at the next Board meeting. Additional channels of communication include the presence of the MC Principal as a non-voting member at Board meetings, and a standing invitation to the MC Vice-Principal (Academic) to attend meetings of the 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 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 MC under third-party provider arrangements with the ACT, or any other registered provider, shall be conducted under the policies and regulations of the relevant provider.

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 accredited provider with which MC enters into a third-party arrangement for learning, teaching, research, or research training).

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

INTERNAL

- Academic Board Terms of Reference
- Learning and Teaching Committee Terms of Reference
- Research Committee Terms of Reference
- Risk Management Committee Terms of Reference
- Low-Risk Ethics Committee Terms of Reference

EXTERNAL

- Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021
- Guidance Note: Academic Governance (TEQSA, November 2023)
- Higher Education Support Act 2003
- Higher Education Provider Guidelines 2023)
- Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018

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
2.00	MC Board	16 September 2024	16 September 2024	Amended in response to the MC receiving self-accrediting status, and to TEQSA's provider reclassifications. Added the LREC as a sub-committee of the AB.
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 document anew with each use, as it may have changed.