

ACADEMIC FREEDOM COMMITTEE (AFC)

The two Academics Union representatives on this committee are Mr. Jacques Rosseau and Dr Tom Angier

PURPOSE:

To promote academic freedom, including university autonomy, within and outside UCT, and to take appropriate action when it is infringed.

1. COMPOSITION:

The Vice-Chancellor (*ex officio*) or nominee

Up to two Deputy Vice-Chancellors as the Vice-Chancellor nominates.

Up to two people appointed by Council.

Three Professors appointed by Senate.

Two non-Professorial members of the academic staff nominated by the Academics Union

Three students nominated by the SRC.

2. CHAIR/DEPUTY CHAIR:

Chair: A person nominated by the members of the committee and approved by Senate. Senate reserves the right to remove Chair

Deputy: A member of the committee nominated by the committee

3. SPECIAL QUORUM RULES:

Four members shall constitute a quorum.

4. TERMS OF OFFICE:

Students: one calendar year (renewable)

Others: four years from 1 July

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE:

8.1 To advise Senate and Council on any aspect of academic freedom, including University autonomy.

8.2 To provide a forum in which the views of members of the University on matters of academic freedom, including University autonomy, can be discussed and more clearly focussed and, where appropriate, to submit those views to Senate and Council with or without comment in regard thereto.

8.3 To do anything else in regard to academic freedom, including University autonomy, as may be directed or previously approved by Senate or Council, or as the committee deems appropriate, to achieve its purpose;

8.4 To arrange the annual TB Davie Memorial Lecture; and

8.5 Where necessary, to ensure freedom of expression and association on University premises, to protect and promote academic freedom.

Note: The specific procedures for meetings held on University premises or premises under the aegis of the University can be found in University Handbook 3: General Rules and Policies.

9. PROCEDURES:

- 9.1 The Committee meets to discuss issues concerning academic freedom including University autonomy:
- 9.2 at the instance of Council or Senate.
- 9.3 if approved by the Chair, at the instance of any member of staff.
- 9.4 at the instance of the majority of members of the Committee itself; or
- 9.5 at the instance of the Chair of the Committee.
- 9.6 The Annual Report by the Committee to the Chair of SEC is a vehicle for accounting for the work of the Committee. Because of this the Committee must:
 - (a) report on what it has achieved RELATIVE TO the agreed goals and objectives of the Committee and to its agreed purpose; and
 - (b) hold itself accountable in that its report places the parent committee chair in the position to judge how well the Committee Group has performed.

10. DELEGATED AUTHORITY:

The committee may issue statements, in its name, on issues of academic freedom, including University autonomy, and/or may submit draft statements to Senate and/or Council to be issued in the name of Senate and/or Council.