

## **Preserving Freedom of Expression in Academia During Times of Crisis – Statement**

The role of academia is essential in shaping the character of citizens in a democratic society by promoting values of justice, freedom, and equality, as well as by cultivating critical thinking and a culture of dialogue and the peaceful management of conflicts.

The “Iron Swords” war has caused divisions and increased extreme views among different groups in Israeli society and it's become harder to handle diverse opinions and many feel hesitant to speak openly even within academia. The College of Management committed to protecting free speech within the law, opposing racism and support for terrorism, and ensuring that no one uses free expression to silence others, create fear, or encourage violence.

The college will maintain democratic standards of discourse, enable a diversity of opinions and disagreements, and caution against inflammatory and misleading expressions on social networks and across campus. The college is committed to the recognition of others, acceptance of differences, and the protection of human rights, and will continue to safeguard the right of every individual and group to freely express their views and opinions – even those that are deeply controversial – without fear of hostility or persecution.