Research which covered nations and opinions concerning academic culture in Indonesia was very rarely—or even never—carried out in Indonesia. Consequently, model, conception and picture of the academic life and activities in Indonesia have been hard to be defined and described. This article is a part of the study concerning academic culture in Indonesia which has been carried out at 10 (ten) prominent state universities in Indonesia including UI (Jakarta/Depok), UNPAD (Bandung), UNDIP (Semarang), UGM (Yogyakarta), UNAIR (Surabaya), USU (Medan), UNUD (Denpasar), UNLAM (Banjarmasin), UNHAS (Ujungpandang), and UNCEN (Jayapura). A series of survey has been conducted during 1998 to 2000 by interviewing 219 state university lecturers and professors at universities under study, in order to build a definition, conception and notion of academic culture in Indonesia. Conception and notion of academic culture has also been accomplished with academic tradition (tradisi akademik) and scientific autonomy (otonomi keilmuan).

**Keyword:** academic culture, Indonesia, state universities, academic life, academic tradition, academic freedom, academic pulpit freedom, scientific autonomy.