

Resolution on Civil Discourse, Free Expression, and Academic Freedom  
University of Florida, Faculty Senate

**Whereas** the Board of Governors has requested that all SUS faculty senates affirm the State University System Free Expression Statement<sup>1</sup> as part of its commitment to civil discourse, and

**Whereas** Chair Brian Lamb tasked universities with promoting a culture of civil discourse and academic freedom through commitment to free expression, and

**Whereas** the core mission of the university, and its distinctive contribution to the American republic, is the pursuit of truth and advancement of knowledge through scholarship and teaching, and

**Whereas** this mission is sustained by freedom of inquiry, freedom of expression, and equality before laws and campus regulations, and

**Whereas** the habits of mind required for this advancement of knowledge sustain our republic by educating citizens in the liberality and intellectual independence necessary to participate in self-government in a pluralistic society, and

**Whereas**, creating a culture of free inquiry is necessary for student success.

**The University of Florida Faculty Senate hereby affirms the following principles:**

- Universities have a unique educational and knowledge-producing mission to cultivate free and thoughtful minds.
- Universities must advance free inquiry, honor intellectual merit, and respect the diverse ideas that arise naturally from the pursuit of truth.
- Free inquiry in scholarship is the liberty of scholars and students to pursue truth, advance knowledge, and encourage artistic excellence wherever the quest may lead.
- Academic Freedom in the classroom entails being intellectually honest and welcoming reasoned disagreement and civil discourse.
- Evaluation of student performance by professors must be based on academic standards applied equally to all students; evaluation of faculty performance by administrators must be based on academic standards applied equally to all faculty.
- Faculty members are responsible for maintaining a climate of intellectual freedom, ensuring scholarly integrity, and promoting excellence in the pursuit of truth through a commitment to free inquiry, intellectual honesty, and free expression as embodied by the SUS Free Expression Statement.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SPC\\_09\\_Civil-Discourse\\_Final\\_CE.pdf](https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SPC_09_Civil-Discourse_Final_CE.pdf)