

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 Statement¹ 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.

¹ https://www.flbog.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/SPC_09_Civil-Discourse_Final_CE.pdf