



WHEREAS the separation of the university in academic matters and in governance from outside groups, particularly federal or state governments but also industry and other external interest groups is fundamental;

WHEREAS there have been a series of examples of restrictions on individual and institutional activities, such as proposed state legislation HB57 regarding curriculum and Critical Race Theory, HB233 mandatory surveys of faculty on their political ideology as well as the recording of instructor classes without faculty consent, the denial of faculty requests to provide expert witness testimony against the state, the potential for undue political influence in the hiring process, and the development of COVID mitigation measures;

WHEREAS academic freedom is defined in the [University of Florida Constitution](#) Section III Article 2;

WHEREAS the Florida Advisory Council of Faculty Senates and the University of Florida Faculty Senate unanimously endorsed a resolution reaffirming a commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech as core values;

WHEREAS the Association of American Universities (AAU), of which the University of Florida is a member, endorsed a [statement](#) on academic principles that included institutional autonomy, academic freedom, and shared governance;

ACKNOWLEDGING the efforts of the University of Florida President and the Chair of the Faculty Senate in establishing internal taskforces and committees charged with reviewing recent conflict of interest decisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that multiple stakeholders, such as faculty, staff, and students, should be included in the University of Florida's institutional decisions related to academic freedom;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that faculty expertise and engagement should be systematically included in the process of reviewing potential conflicts of interest related to outside activities that have implications for academic freedom;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Faculty Senate calls upon the University of Florida Administration, in consultation with Faculty Senate, to invite an external and independent evaluation to ensure the separation of the University of Florida from outside groups in academic matters and in governance, particularly federal or state governments but also industry and other external interest groups with a report to be presented to the University of Florida Faculty Senate within the 2021-2022 academic year.