

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
August 31, 2021

SUBJECT: Civil Discourse Initiative Update

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the January 2021 Board of Governors meeting, Chair Syd Kitson announced a new initiative on civil discourse in his annual “State of the System” address. Each State University System institution has submitted an overview of key activities and initiatives to support civil discourse across the system.

These initiatives are organized into the following four categories.

1. **Workshops & Professional Development:** Presentations, lectures, workshops, or training designed to provide opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and campus partners to learn how to engage in and facilitate dialogue respectfully, as well as discuss diverse points of view in an informal or formal environment.
2. **Speaker (s), Dialogue, & Debate:** Events or programs that provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to engage in, observe, or facilitate conversations and encourage civil discourse.
3. **Outreach (on and off-campus):** Programs, workshops, and or campaigns designed to cultivate a campus culture of civil discourse and engage external partners on issues related to civil discourse.
4. **Research & Academic:** Research-based initiatives, web tools, and courses designed to provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to engage in or learn about issues related to civil discourse in a formal setting.

Dr. Christy England, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, will provide an overview of the activities and initiatives across the system. Then representatives from four institutions will provide detailed information on the following initiatives.

- Florida Atlantic University: The Breezeway Dialogues
- Florida Polytechnic University: New Student Orientation
- Florida State University: The Power of WE

- University of North Florida: Difficult Conversations and Practical Solutions

Supporting Documentation Included:

Civil Discourse: SUS Key Initiatives

Facilitators/Presenters:

Dr. Christy England
Dr. Bret Danilowicz
Dr. Kathryn Miller
Governor Natassia Janvier
Dr. Karen Patterson