

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
January 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Civil Discourse Initiative Report

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of the Civil Discourse Initiative Report.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board of Governors' Civil Discourse Initiative was established by Chair Kitson during his January 2021 "State of the System" address. This initiative was assigned to the Strategic Planning Committee. Chair Kitson expressed concern regarding the steady decline in respectful discourse among those with differing viewpoints, and stated his belief that the university setting can provide a foundation for understanding, learning, and growth in this area.

During subsequent committee meetings, testimony was provided by national and State University System experts on civil discourse issues in higher education, and national models of effective campus programs were reviewed. State universities also provided information on current activities and initiatives that promote and support civil discourse in campus communities, and best practices were identified.

If approved by the Strategic Planning Committee, the report will come to the full Board for consideration.

Supporting Documentation Included: In Strategic Planning Committee
Materials