



Civil Discourse Update

Governor Tim Cerio

Dr. Christy England, Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs

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Framework for the Board's Initiative

**Statement of Free
Expression**

**Section 1004.097, *Florida Statutes*,
Campus Free Expression Act**

**2019 Board of
Governors**

Recommendation I: Commit to Civil Discourse



University leadership will operationalize the commitment to open-minded & tolerant civil discourse

	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	POLY	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF
In Progress	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implemented												



Current Progress

- Forming workgroups
- Developing a vision statement
- Planning a dialogue series
- Introducing civil discourse training
- Launching a public event series
- Identifying civil discourse as guiding principle

Recommendation II: University Planning



Each university's Accountability Plan (AP) & Strategic Plan (SP) endorses the Statement of Free Expression & expectation for open-minded & tolerant civil discourse

	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	POLY	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF
In Progress			AP		AP							AP
		SP		SP	SP	SP	SP		SP	SP	SP	
Implemented	AP	AP		AP		AP	AP	AP	AP	AP	AP	
	SP		SP					SP				SP

Recommendation III: Review Policies & Procedures



Leadership will annually review & endorse the Board's Statement of Free Expression & commit to the civil discourse principles

	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	POLY	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF
In Progress	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implemented												



Timeline

- Board of trustees, faculty senate, & student government will conduct annual reviews
- To be completed during the 2022-23 Academic Year

Recommendation IV & VI: University Leadership



Leadership will review student orientation programs, student codes of conduct, & employee policies & procedures to ensure consistency with the Board's Statement of Free Expression, principles of free speech & civil discourse, & Florida law

	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	POLY	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF
In Progress	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implemented												



Leadership
groups

- Board of trustees & university academic, student affairs, & administrative leaders are reviewing policies

Recommendation V: Presidential Evaluations



As part of a president's evaluation, the university's campus free speech climate will be reviewed by the Chair of the Board of Governors in consultation with the board of trustees chair

	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	POLY	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF
In Progress	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Implemented												



Timeline

- Implementation begins with the 2022 presidential evaluation & renewal cycle

Recommendation VII: Implement Best Practices



1

Instill the importance of civil discourse, academic freedom, & free speech from day one

- Developing a series of web guides that will be linked in library webpages & available in weekly updates
- Preview Program includes an emphasis on the code of conduct on civil discourse delivered at student orientation

2

Campus events promoting open discussion, understanding, & learning

- Breezeway Dialogues & Campus Conversations
- Annual Constitution Week
- Guest speakers

3

Foster intellectual diversity with university leadership

- Annual summit with university leadership groups
- Regulations & policies that include the universities' commitment to diversity, equal opportunity, & free expression

Recommendation VII: Implement Best Practices



4

Avoid disinvitations for campus speakers

- Campus workgroups are developing clear, viewpoint - neutral policies & procedures governing the invitation & accommodation of campus speakers

5

Provide targeted professional development for employees to reinforce free expression

- Human Resources delivering trainings that cultivate skills & practices important for civil discourse
- Workshops & reading groups

6

Encourage faculty to support open dialogue & free expression

- Faculty & instructor website with resources for engaging in civil discourse
- Support sessions & sample syllabi language

Next Steps



October

Civil Discourse plans & updates due to staff

November

Report updates to Board



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