

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
Civil Discourse Update  
Summer 2023

**The Board of Governors as Advocate – Recommendation I**

*The Board of Governors expects that the leadership at each university will operationalize the Board's commitment to open-minded and tolerant civil discourse by promoting, supporting, and regularly evaluating adherence to the principles set forth in the Board's Statement of Free Expression and cultivating a culture of civil discourse in all campus interactions, including academic, administrative, extracurricular, and social dealings.*

	In Progress	Implemented	Summer 2023 Update
<p><b>Operationalization of the Board's commitment to the Statement of Free Expression and cultivating a culture of civil discourse</b></p>	<p>FAU will create a Civil Discourse Initiative Committee that will oversee the operationalization and implementation of the Board's Statement of Free Expression. The committee will be charged with the regularly evaluating adherence to Board's civil discourse principles in academic, administrative, extracurricular, and social interactions. FAU will utilize both quantitative and qualitative methods to evaluate the efficacy of efforts in cultivating a culture of civil discourse on campus. The committee will develop its evaluation criteria and methodology during the 2022-2023 academic year.</p>	<p>FAU has a long and documented commitment to the principles of free expression and civil discourse. Prior to this initiative, FAU served as a national model for free expression dating back to Dr. William Trapani's Agora Project. In 2021, FAU created the Breezeway Dialogues. Spearheaded by Dr. Naelys Luna, founding dean of the College of Social Work &amp; Criminal Justice, and Dr. Michael Horswell, dean of the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts &amp; Letters, the Breezeway Dialogue series invites students to think critically; observe and participate in debates using facts and evidence-based arguments; and learn how to present ideas in a clear, respectful and professional manner. Each dialogue features a moderator and multiple panelists who present opposing sides of a selected topic. To foster an environment of continued dialogue and interaction, following the panelist presentations, discussion is opened to the audience members, who may pose questions to the panelists and offer additional commentary to either viewpoint. To ensure all dialogues remain relevant and meaningful, FAU students were surveyed in order to identify the topics they found most pressing.</p>	<p>Throughout the 22-23 Academic Year, FAU held three additional Breezeway Dialogues. November 14, 2022, February 7, 2023 and, April 11, 2023</p>
	<p><b>If "in progress," anticipated implementation date: Academic Year 22-23</b></p>	<p>Throughout the 2021-2022 academic year, FAU successfully held three, well attended Breezeway Dialogues. The topics included, "Individual Freedom vs. Collective Responsibility: A Debate Over America's Future", "The Crisis of Race &amp; Policing: Wrong, Right and Everything in Between", and "Did Capitalism Cause Climate Change, and is Green Capitalism the Solution." There are currently four Breezeway Dialogues scheduled for the 2022-2023 academic year.</p>	
		<p>Additionally, beginning in Summer 2022, FAU introduced a new civil discourse training to our incoming First-Year, Transfer and Wilkes Honors College students. The training appears within the student's required Canvas modules and all incoming students must complete it prior to their first week of class. The training consists of videos featuring FAU faculty, staff and students discussing FAU's commitment to Civil Discourse along with the goals, values, and the positive impact of creating a culture of free expression and open inquiry.</p>	
		<p>For Fall 2022, FAU introduced students to the principles of Civil Discourse at the required Freshman Convocation. The Convocation presented a "mini-Breezeway Dialogue" featuring students demonstrating the principles of civil discourse and free expression through open and civil debate.</p>	

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University Planning – Recommendation II		
<i>The Board of Governors recommends that each university's Accountability Plan and Strategic Plan include a specific endorsement of the Board's Statement of Free Expression, as well as a clear expectation for open-minded and tolerant civil discourse throughout the campus community. The Board of Governors will include similar statements and principles in its Strategic Plan for the State University System.</i>		
Accountability Plan	Strategic Plan	Summer 2023 Update
Completed	In Progress	Will be included next time Strategic Plan is updated.
<b>If "in progress," anticipated completion date:</b>	<b>If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Current strategic plan runs from 2015-2025. Next strategic plan will include the endorsement.</b>	<b>Current strategic plan runs from 2015-2025. Next strategic plan will include the endorsement.</b>

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University Leadership – Recommendation III			
The Board of Governors recommends that the leadership of each university board of trustees, faculty senate, and student government annually review and endorse the Board's Statement of Free Expression and commit to the principles of civil discourse. NOTE: The first review should be completed during the 2022-2023 academic year.			
	University Board of Trustees	Faculty Senate	Student Government
<b>Review and endorse the Board's Statement of Free Expression and commit to the principles of civil discourse</b>	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
Beginning with the 2022-2023 academic year, FAU's Provost, Vice President for Student Affairs, or designee, will bring the Board's Statement of Free Expression to the board of trustees, faculty senate, and student government, each year for review and endorsement.	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: During 2022-2023 Academic Year	Complete Dec 5 2022	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: During 2022-2023 Academic Year
<b>Summer 2023 Update</b>			
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: August 15th, 2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Complete Dec 5 2022	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Sep-23

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University Leadership – Recommendation IV			
The Board of Governors recommends that each <b>board of trustees</b> conducts a thorough review of current student orientation programs, student codes of conduct, and employee policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the Board of Governors Statement of Free Expression, the principles of free speech and civil discourse, and compliance with section 1004.097, Florida Statutes.			
	Board's Statement of Free Expression	Principles of Free Speech & Civil Discourse	section 1004.097, Florida Statutes
<b>Student orientation programming</b>	Completed	Completed	Completed
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:
<b>Summer 2023 Update</b>	Completed	Completed	Completed
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:
<b>Student codes of conduct</b>	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023
<b>Summer 2023 Update</b>	Completed	Completed	Completed
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:
<b>Employee personnel policies and procedures</b>	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023
<b>Summer 2023 Update</b>	Completed	Completed	Completed
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:

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Academic, Student, and Administrative Affairs – Recommendation VI			
<p><i>The Board of Governors recommends that <b>university academic, student affairs, and administrative leaders</b> review student orientation programming, student codes of conduct, and employee personnel policies and procedures to ensure that they contain clear and unambiguous support for the Board's Statement of Free Expression, and the principles of free speech and civil discourse, and that they are in compliance with section 1004.097, Florida Statutes.</i></p>			
Review by Academic Affairs Leaders	Board's Statement of Free Expression	Principles of Free Speech & Civil Discourse	section 1004.097, Florida Statutes
<b>Student orientation programming</b>	Completed	In Progress	In Progress
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023
<b>Summer 2023 Update</b>	Completed	Completed	Completed
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:
<b>Student codes of conduct</b>	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023
<b>Summer 2023 Update</b>	In Progress	In Progress	Completed
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Next revision to Code of Conduct that goes to BOT will contain additional language.	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Next revision to Code of Conduct that goes to BOT will contain additional language.	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:
<b>Employee personnel policies and procedures</b>	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023
<b>Summer 2023 Update</b>	In Progress	In Progress	Completed
	The FAU Personnel Policy is currently under review and will contain requisite language upon the next amendment.	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: The FAU Personnel Policy is currently under review and will contain requisite language upon the next amendment.	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:

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Review by Student Affairs Leaders	Board's Statement of Free Expression	Principles of Free Speech & Civil Discourse	section 1004.097, Florida Statutes
Student orientation programming	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023
Summer 2023 Update	Completed	Completed	Completed
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:
Student codes of conduct	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
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Academic, Student, and Administrative Affairs – Recommendation VI			
The Board of Governors recommends that <b>university academic, student affairs, and administrative leaders</b> review student orientation programming, student codes of conduct, and employee personnel policies and procedures to ensure that they contain clear and unambiguous support for the Board's Statement of Free Expression, and the principles of free speech and civil discourse, and that they are in compliance with section 1004.097, Florida Statutes.			
Review by Administrative Leaders	Board's Statement of Free Expression	Principles of Free Speech & Civil Discourse	section 1004.097, Florida Statutes
Student orientation programming	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023	If "in progress," anticipated completion date: Academic Year 2022-2023
Summer 2023 Update	Completed	Completed	Completed
	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:	If "in progress," anticipated completion date:
Student codes of conduct	In Progress	In Progress	In Progress
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Best Practices for Civil Discourse – Recommendation VII			
<i>The Board of Governors recommends implementing the following best practices based on its review of university programs and initiatives that effectively promote and support civil discourse.</i>			
	In Progress	Implemented	Summer 2023
<b>1. Instill the importance of civil discourse, academic freedom, and free speech from day one, utilizing student and employee orientation sessions, public assemblies, and official university documents and communications.</b>		Beginning in Summer 2022, FAU will introduced the principles of civil discourse at the Freshman Convocation and require all degree-seeking undergraduate students to complete civil discourse training via online modules.	FAU continues to incorporate the principles of civil discourse at the Convocation and provide training to all undergraduate degree-seeking students.
<b>2. Schedule and host ongoing, campus-wide forums, dialogues, and debates on various issues and perspectives to promote open discussion, understanding, and learning opportunities.</b>		Beginning in academic year 2021-2022, FAU successfully held three Breezeway Dialogues aimed at the promotion of open discussion, viewpoint diversity, and civil discourse. The Breezeway Dialogues will continue throughout the 2022-2023 Academic Year.	Throughout the 22-23 Academic Year, FAU held three additional Breezeway Dialogues. November 14, 2022, February 7, 2023 and, April 11, 2023
<b>3. Foster intellectual diversity by encouraging university leadership to: (1) promote viewpoint diversity and open-minded discussion and debate, and (2) highlight and enforce policies that prohibit programming that excludes participation based on race or ethnicity.</b>		FAU Regulation 7.008, Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment unequivocally states FAU's commitment to creating a workplace and educational environment free from discrimination, which includes race and ethnicity. Additionally, FAU Policy 1.15, Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment prohibits discrimination based on race and ethnicity and outlines the procedure for investigating allegations. The FAU Office of Equity and Inclusion is the sole office dedicated to investigating complaints brought forth by faculty, staff and students.	
<b>4. Avoid disinvitations by developing clear, viewpoint-neutral policies and procedures governing the invitation and accommodation of campus speakers.</b>	Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, FAU will develop and implement clear, viewpoint neutral policies and procedures governing the invitation and accommodation of campus speakers.		FAU has not had any viewpoint disinvitations and consistently promotes a campus that is welcome of all viewpoints.
	If "in progress," anticipated implementation date: <b>Academic Year 2022-2023</b>		FAU is continuing to codify the principles that govern campus speech. Goal is have a campus policy in place Dec 2023.



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Best Practices for Civil Discourse – Recommendation VII			
<i>The Board of Governors recommends implementing the following best practices based on its review of university programs and initiatives that effectively promote and support civil discourse.</i>			
	In Progress	Implemented	Summer 2023
<b>5. Provide targeted educational and professional development opportunities for university administrative employees to reinforce free expression and open-minded debate norms.</b>	Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, the Civil Discourse Initiative Committee will oversee the identification, development and implementation of targeted educational and professional development opportunities for university administrative employees. The Office of Equity and Inclusion will work with the Office of Human Resources to incorporate the principles of civil discourse and free expression in applicable staff training.		The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX (former OEI) is continuing to work with Human Resources to design training materials that highlight the principles of free expression and civil discourse.
	<b>If "in progress," anticipated implementation date: Academic Year 2022-2023</b>		Training in place by Dec 2023.
<b>6. Encourage faculty to establish and maintain a learning environment in their classrooms and offices that supports open dialogue and the free expression of all viewpoints and create processes to evaluate the strength of such environments.</b>	The Civil Discourse Initiative Committee will collaborate with the Office of the Provost throughout the 2022-2023 academic year to identify, develop and implement programs that support faculty in their pursuit of offering students diverse viewpoints, free inquiry and expression.		FAU is continuing to pursue educational models and training for faculty support.
	<b>If "in progress," anticipated implementation date: Academic Year 2022-2023</b>		Continued throughout 2023 academic year.