

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Strategic Planning Committee
March 23, 2021**

SUBJECT: Civil Discourse Initiative

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. Chair Kitson tasked Governor Tim Cerio to lead this important initiative through the Strategic Planning Committee. Governor Cerio has stated that the committee’s work will be based on the Board’s April 2019 “Statement on Free Expression,” which was adopted by the 12 state universities to support and encourage a full and open discourse and the robust exchange of ideas and perspectives on all university campuses. The committee will provide recommendations and an action plan on how the System can better encourage a diversity of thought and dialogue.

At today’s meeting, Governor Cerio will provide an overview of the Civil Discourse Initiative. Ms. Liz Joyner, CEO, The Village Square, Inc., and Mr. William Mattox, Director, Marshall Center for Educational Options at the James Madison Institute, will introduce key issues relating to civil discourse, free expression, and civic engagement in a university environment.

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

Facilitators/Presenters:

Governor Cerio
Ms. Liz Joyner
Mr. William Mattox