



Resolution: 23-24 RS IV

Author(s): Senate Pro Tempore Hicks & Budget and Allocations Chair Pogreba

To read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Florida Board of Governors passed recommendations relative to civil discourse on public campuses in January of 2022; and

WHEREAS, the civil discourse process, referred to as the marketplace of ideas, is the process in which, “individuals are free to express any ideas and opinions they wish, even if others may disagree with them or find those ideas and opinions to be offensive or otherwise antithetical to their own worldview”; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental purpose of higher education institutions is to “provide a learning environment where divergent ideas, opinions, and philosophies can be vigorously debated and critically evaluated” through the civil discourse process; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation 3 of the State University System of Florida Strategic Planning Committee relative to civil discourse dictates that each university Board of Trustees, Faculty Senate, and Student Government annually review and endorse the Board’s Statement of Free Expression as well as commit to the principles of civil discourse; and

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida has upheld free expression events such as Duel or Debate: Abortion Rights, Virtual Living Room Conversation: Free Speech, Hate Speech & Campus Life, the Electoral College debate, etc; and

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida Student Government Association endorses and encourages a full, open discourse and the robust exchange of ideas and perspectives on our campus and the right of students to engage with those who express their ideals on the campus.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the University of West Florida Student Government Association recognizes the freedom of speech and expression for all students, faculty, and staff and endorses the State University System of Florida's Statement of Free Expression, and commits to the principles of civil discourse outlined in the Florida Board of Governors implementation recommendations.

Ms. Ariauna Range
Student Body President

Ms. Bravian Hicks
Senate Pro Tempore