



Resolution: 24- 25 RS I - Civil Discourse

Author(s): Senate Pro Tempore Jones

To read as follows:

WHEREAS, the Florida Board of Governors, the governing body of the State University System of Florida, established a Civil Discourse Initiative in January 2021 and published a final report in January 2022; and,

WHEREAS, leader of the initiative Governor Tim Cerio believes that “civil discourse, conducted civilly without fear of reprisal, is critical to free speech and ensuring academic and intellectual freedom--not just on our university campuses, but throughout our country,”; and,

WHEREAS, all twelve universities of the State University System of Florida adopted a Statement on Free Expression in 2019 stating that “a fundamental purpose of an institution of higher education is to provide a learning environment where divergent ideas, opinions, and philosophies, new and old, can be rigorously debated and critically evaluated,”; and,

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida has continually promoted civil discourse through the delegation of civil discourse on campus to the recently established Office of Campus Culture and Access, which has coordinated free-expression events in which students have the opportunity to engage in civil discourse over controversial topics; and,

WHEREAS, Recommendation Three of the State University System of Florida Strategic Planning Committee recommends that each university student government annually review and endorse the Board’s Statement of Free Expression as well as commit to the principles of civil discourse.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the University of West Florida Student Government Association recognizes and endorses 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maggie Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Maggie Brown  
Student Body President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ichelle Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Ichelle Jones  
Senate Pro Tempore