



Policy

UNIVERSITY POLICY BOT 16.00-[Month/Year]

TO: The University of West Florida Community

FROM: Interim President Manny Diaz, Jr.

SUBJECT: University Neutrality

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE: Board of Trustees

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the university's commitment to institutional neutrality on matters that are unrelated to its core educational mission. By doing so, the university fosters an academic environment where free inquiry, diverse perspectives, and the open exchange of ideas are protected and supported.

II. Policy:

The [mission](#) of the University of West Florida requires institutional neutrality. Universities play a unique social and cultural role by cultivating, hosting, and teaching both established wisdom and leading thought. In this role, UWF facilitates freedom of academic inquiry and of expression on any subject, which may challenge prevailing social norms, public policies, and institutional practices; however, as an institution devoted to the intellectual pursuit and communication of truth, the university itself takes no official position on public controversies outside its regular activities so as not to undermine the freedom of thought and expression necessary for that endeavor.

Alongside this commitment to free expression and viewpoint diversity, UWF adheres strictly to the free speech and academic freedom requirements of the state and federal constitutions. UWF also reaffirms the right of individual faculty, staff, and students to engage in political discourse and social action as private citizens.

At UWF, dissent and critique belong to the individual faculty member or the individual student. While the university and its academic and administrative units are the settings in which these critiques can flourish, neither the university nor any of its component parts speaks with a single voice or requires one on public controversies. Our common academic purpose is to foster teaching, research, and expression in an environment of open dialogue, free inquiry, individual rights, individual prerogatives, and respect for each individual.

As a public university, UWF may advocate on issues directly related to its educational mission and operational capacity. The university reserves the right to take positions when its core functions of teaching, research, and service are directly threatened.

Approved by: _____
Interim President Manny Diaz, Jr.

Date: _____

Authority: Florida BOG Regulation 1.001, University Board of Trustees Powers and Duties

Cross Ref.:

History:

Last Review: