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IU adopts Chicago Principles, affirming university's commitment to free expression, academic freedom

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INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana University Board of Trustees voted unanimously on Feb. 20 to adopt the [Chicago Principles](#), affirming Indiana University's enduring commitment to free expression, academic freedom and institutional neutrality across its nine campuses.

Originally articulated by the University of Chicago's Committee on Freedom of Expression, the Chicago Principles provide a widely recognized statement of values that underscore the role of universities as places where ideas may be freely examined, debated and challenged in the pursuit of knowledge. With this action, Indiana University adopts the principles as a foundational expression of its academic mission.

"The Chicago Principles offer an enduring framework grounded in Indiana University's core values and aligned with its academic mission and commitment to transformational education and research," said Dr. David Hormuth, chair of the IU Board of Trustees. "As stewards of the university, the board voted to adopt these principles to reaffirm the conditions that allow teaching, research and discovery to flourish."

"For generations, Indiana University has been guided by a deep commitment to academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas," Indiana University President Pamela Whitten said. "Adopting the Chicago Principles reflects and reinforces those values, strengthening an environment in which students learn through open inquiry and develop as thoughtful, engaged members of society."

The board's vote follows a [University Faculty Council-led review](#) initiated in November 2025, when Whitten charged the council with examining the Chicago

Principles in the context of IU's long-standing commitments to academic freedom and free expression. Convened by the University Faculty Council co-chairs, the resulting task force included faculty and student representatives from across multiple campuses and disciplines, with student leaders playing an important role throughout the process. The All University Student Association also unanimously endorsed adoption of the Chicago Principles.

“We see this as an important moment of consensus: an opportunity for faculty, students and administration to move forward together on a matter of fundamental importance,” the University Faculty Council task force members said in their recommendation to the Board of Trustees. “Adoption of the Principles will be the starting point, not the end point, of a University-wide dialogue on the meaning and values of free speech and academic freedom.”

As a next step, the University Faculty Council and the Academic Leadership Council will establish a joint implementation task force to design and coordinate efforts to educate the university community about the Chicago Principles.

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