



From: NCUFF
For: Immediate Release
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**Statement from the New College chapter of the United Faculty of Florida (NCUFF),
the union that represents the New College faculty**

In this moment, we stand united, as in the past and for the future, in support of New College's values and mission. We, as faculty at a public liberal arts honors college, are dedicated to free and open critical inquiry in our classes, on campus, and in our community. We want to reassure our partners in education—our students and their families, our New College colleagues and alumni, the larger Sarasota/Manatee community, and all Floridians—that we will continue to pursue our work as educators and citizens. We will continue teaching and learning with our students, providing the high-quality, personalized education, mentorship, and opportunities for career exploration that are the hallmark of New College.

New College was founded to provide an accessible educational option for independent learners who seek to become problem solvers, pursuing careers of achievement, service, and civic engagement. As a recognized and renowned public liberal arts college, our curriculum complements those of the other Florida State University System (SUS) institutions, contributing to the Florida SUS leadership in public education nationally. Trained in fields across the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities—fields that comprise the backbone of a liberal arts education—we provide a valuable and affordable choice for students from Florida and beyond.

We respect our students as leaders and learners. We support their fearless pursuit of knowledge, including research on race and gender. We assert our unflagging commitment to free speech, academic integrity, and the respectful exchange of different viewpoints. We appreciate recent statements that affirm precisely these values, such as the University of Chicago statement on Freedom of Expression, which has been endorsed by more than 90 American bodies of higher education including major R-1 institutions such as Princeton, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Michigan State, and Brandeis; liberal arts colleges such as Kenyon, Claremont McKenna, and Smith; and, notably, the State University System of Florida (affirmed by the Board of Governors in 2019). We appreciate the leadership of the SUS Board of Governors in articulating the importance of creating a space of belonging for different cultures, religions, communities, and viewpoints. For example, following a memo from the SUS Board of Governors (October 22, 2020), we, along with all other SUS institutions, were encouraged to take additional steps to ensure that our campus provides an inclusive and respectful place for learning. We maintain our commitment to coming together and making changes to support the achievements, dignity, and personhood of all members of our community.

We ask our fellow Floridians, advocates for public education, and all who believe in the values of civic engagement, mutual respect, inclusion, and thoughtful dialog embodied in a liberal arts education to voice their support for New College, our mission, and our students.

Please contact NCUFF with any questions: ncuffpresident@gmail.com