

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATEMENT ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH

On June 23, 2023, the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees unanimously adopted the below statement as an affirmation of the University's commitment to free speech.

WHEREAS, as the flagship public university of the State of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina is subject to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of its commitment to the principles of free speech, expression and inquiry afforded all members of the University of South Carolina community, and the aspirational values established in the Carolinian Creed, the Board of Trustees requested the Faculty Senate to consider for adoption the affirmation of the rights of freedom of expression on college campuses articulated in the "Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression" at the University of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2023, the Faculty Senate adopted "A Resolution on Academic Freedom and Free Expression at University of South Carolina" affirming its commitment to the same essential principles of freedom of expression articulated in the "Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression" at the University of Chicago and declaring these principles to be afforded to the faculty, staff, students and other speakers at the University of South Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The University of South Carolina adopts the core principles articulated in the "Report of the Committee on Freedom of Expression" at the University of Chicago (<https://provost.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/reports/FOECommitteeReport.pdf>); and
2. The policies and procedures of the University of South Carolina shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and shall be modified by the administration, as necessary, to be consistent therewith.