

Proposed Statement from the Franklin Faculty Senate

To: President Jere Morehead; Dean Suzanne Barbour; Dean Alan Dorsey; J. Barrett Malone
From: The Franklin College Faculty Senate

We affirm, as the Board of Regents did in a letter distributed on April 16, 2019, the rights of free speech and academic freedom for all UGA employees and students. We expect that UGA administration will support and defend these rights for all in the UGA community, even when such speech is critical of the university or contains opinions that may be divisive.

We condemn the use of the Student Code of Conduct, or any other university investigation mechanisms, as a means to retaliate against UGA students or employees for political speech or in response to outside pressures.

We expect that, when an investigation of a student or other UGA employee is justified and necessary, the home department (or other relevant unit) will be appropriately consulted, and their opinions on the matter carefully considered. While we respect confidentiality, we condemn efforts to investigate UGA students or employees that have not been properly considered by all relevant parties.

We are deeply concerned about claims regarding retaliatory efforts against UGA students for political speech or action. We expect that the UGA administration will neither tolerate, nor participate in any attempts to silence students' political speech or to respond to politically-motivated external pressure.