

Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System

**REPORT OF EFFORTS TO FURTHER PROMOTE  
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION<sup>1</sup>  
(AUGUST 31, 2021)**

The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama (hereinafter “the Board”), through its individual campuses (The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville) has historically embraced a commitment to freedom of speech and expression. This commitment is most recently evidenced through the Board’s June 2020 Resolution and the individual campus policies that promote broad opportunities for free speech and expression on all our campuses.<sup>2</sup> The Resolution and Policies appropriately balance the Board’s constitutional authority and discretion to manage and control its campuses with the Board’s appropriately exercised neutrality on matters of free speech and its ongoing efforts to encourage members of the campus community to engage in activities of expression. Indeed, since their inception, the requirements of the Policies have been repeatedly satisfied without a single alleged violation, which further speaks to their effectiveness in appropriately achieving the Board’s objectives. In fact, in addition to spontaneous events and the distribution of materials, which may be done without any registration or approval process, our campuses approved approximately 8,000 registered events on their grounds from July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021. In sum, the Board’s current approach is working well across all three campuses and successfully fosters numerous opportunities for responsible engagement, deliberation, and debate among the campus communities.

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<sup>1</sup> The Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama voluntarily releases this report for informational purposes only to promote transparency in its ongoing efforts to further enhance opportunities for free speech and expression on its individual campuses.

<sup>2</sup> The individual campus policies are available at the following links: [The University of Alabama](#), [The University of Alabama at Birmingham](#), and [The University of Alabama in Huntsville](#). The Board of Trustee’s June 2020 Resolution is available [here](#).