



## **REPORT ON FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST ALABAMA**

In compliance with the Freedom of Speech and Expression Act (Act 2019-396) that was passed by the Alabama Legislature during the 2019 regular legislative session, the University of West Alabama, on behalf of its Board of Trustees, has issued this report, which covers the 12-month period running from August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023:

*(1) The date and description of each violation of the policy adopted pursuant to this act.*

There have been no violations of the University's Policy on Free Speech and Facility Use for the period of August 1, 2022 – July 31, 2023.

*(2) A description of the administrative handling and discipline relating to each violation described.*

Not applicable.

*(3) A description of substantial difficulties, controversies, or successes in maintaining a posture of administrative and institutional neutrality.*

The University has always strived to support its faculty, staff, and students in being able to express their thoughts and opinions, thereby ensuring to the fullest extent possible intellectual freedom and free expression across campus. The University also endeavors to remain neutral, as an institution, on the public policy controversies of the day, except as far as administrative decisions on the issues are essential to the day-to-day operations of the University. This year the University has followed these principles in maintaining a posture of administrative and institutional neutrality.

*(4) Any assessments, criticism, commendations, or recommendations the Board of Trustees sees fit to include.*

The Policy on Free Speech and Facility Use has served the University well by allowing its faculty, staff, and students to take positions on public controversies and engage in protected expressive activity, while maintaining order and the safety of all involved.