



# IU and the Chicago Principles

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1. **Origin:** In November 2025, President Whitten charged the UFC Co-chairs to study the [Chicago Principles](#).
2. **The Taskforce:** In December 2025, UFC Co-Chairs appoint a taskforce to address this matter; this taskforce is diverse group including disciplinary experts, faculty of all ranks, and both undergraduate and graduate student representation from all IU campuses.



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1. **Taskforce issue Report:** In January 2026, the Taskforce issues a report recommending adoption by the UFC of the Chicago principles, though dependent upon several understandings articulated within the report.
2. This report is adopted by the whole UFC at the February 18, 2026
3. UFC Chicago Principles Taskforce Report [here](#).



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**First**, the Principles are not just about controversial speakers or campus protests; rather, they are widely understood as a comprehensive commitment to both free speech and academic freedom.... the Principles would underscore IU's commitments to *both* free expression and academic freedom.



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**Second**, the Principles do not alter the authority of faculty when they are carrying out their teaching responsibilities or give students who are passionate about a subject a license to commandeer the classroom. While vigorous discussion and debate are part of the learning process in many areas of study, their role and boundaries are matters of pedagogical judgment reserved to the instructor.



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**Third**, the Principles are a statement of values, not a policy. They are not self-executing. Rather, they must inform institutional practices, the making of policies, and the enforcement of policies in individual cases. Continued vigilance and monitoring will be required to assure that IU lives up to its commitment in adopting the Principles.



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**Fourth**, provide IU with a powerful argument to resist external pressures over speech or political attempts to interfere with our curriculum. The Principles have clear relevance to these matters, as such external pressures potentially force the administration into the position of controlling, even censoring, faculty speech and pedagogical choices in the classroom.....faithfulness to the Chicago Principles would require IU to work to oppose such political intrusions.



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**Finally**, adoption of the Principles should be the starting point, not the end point, of a University-wide dialogue on the meaning and values of free speech and academic freedom. A structure should be established to assure ongoing monitoring of our fidelity to the Principles. The UFC and other faculty bodies can play a useful role in collaborating on forums, workshops, and other educational programming around these issues.





**INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND**