



News Coverage

January 2023 - Present

Florida Politics – July 20th, 2025

[Alexandra Nicole Islas, force behind Socratic Stage, leaves New College of Florida](#)

The New College of Florida staffer behind a provocative series of high-profile speakers is leaving the Sarasota university.

WUSF – July 15th, 2025

[Family who started scholarship sues New College Foundation, alleges money isn't being awarded](#)

A scholarship fund meant for students of color who demonstrate financial need is at the center of a lawsuit alleging New College of Florida hasn't given out the money in years and won't relinquish the funds as requested.

Tampa Bay Business & Wealth – June 25th, 2025

[New College of Florida receives \\$2.5 million to create education center](#)

New College of Florida has received a \$2.5 million gift from the DSF Charitable Foundation to create a new Contemplation and Education Center, on its Sarasota Bay campus.

Tampa Bay Times – May 22nd, 2025

[New College alumni threaten to sue for clarity on donations](#)

They allege the school may have used restricted donor funds to pay for ballooning expenses.

Tampa Bay Times – May 22nd, 2025

[Former New College official faces 2 new felony charges of indecent exposure](#)

Fred Piccolo Jr., the former communications director at New College of Florida and longtime political operative, now faces two additional felony charges of indecent exposure — this time in Sarasota County — after State Attorney Ed Brodsky [upgraded the charges from misdemeanors](#).

WUSF – May 8th, 2025

[What's a New College degree worth to grads? A listener shares his research](#)

The school uses about 10 times more in tax dollars per degree than other state universities.

Florida Politics – May 2nd, 2025

[Lawmakers abandon plan for New College to take over USF's Sarasota campus and The Ringling museum](#)

A proposal to put New College in Florida in charge of the University of South Florida Sarasota campus appears to be dead.

WUSF – April 22nd, 2025

[New College's background check missed 3 exposure charges before hiring Piccolo](#)

A basic search of Sarasota County's clerk of court records would have turned up all three cases. Nothing in Piccolo's personnel file suggests New College checked that source.

Chronicle of Higher Education – April 15th, 2025

[The College That Conservatives Took Over](#)

The overhaul of New College of Florida stoked fear on the left and excitement on the right. Two years in, what's really changed?

WMNF – April 9th, 2025

[New College backtracks on plans to host Russell Brand, blames 'current media coverage'](#)

New College rescheduled the event with Russell Brand "to a later date", saying that "the current media climate is a distraction from the deeper purpose of the event". They claimed in a press release that "This decision follows changes in event logistics, including the unavailability of the previously planned venue, the Sarasota Opera House. As a result, the event had been moved to a smaller on-campus theater with no tickets available for general access."

ABC Action News – April 9th, 2025

[New College will reschedule Russell Brand event, move to smaller venue with no public access](#)

[Days after Russell Brand was charged with sexual assault](#), New College of Florida said they will reschedule an event planned with the actor for this weekend.

AOL – April 8th, 2025

[Russell Brand Scheduled to Speak at Florida's New College About 'Cancel Culture' 8 Days After Being Charged with Rape](#)

Eight days after being [charged with rape and sexual assault](#), [Russell Brand](#) will be a speaker at Florida's New College, where the actor will discuss cancel culture.

Inside Higher Ed – April 7th, 2025

[A Dramatic Expansion for New College?](#)

New College of Florida may soon take over stewardship of a local art museum and another branch campus. Critics argue NCF doesn't have the means or capability to manage either.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – April 4th, 2025

USF Sarasota-Manatee leaders pen letter pushing back against New College takeover plans

A group of prominent current and former leaders at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee is calling on the community to resist a controversial plan to fold the campus into New College of Florida — a proposed higher education merger that they say has been politically motivated and pushed forward without local input.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – March 31st, 2025

New College of Florida abruptly fires Chinese adjunct professor

After less than two years teaching at the once liberal arts institution, Adjunct Professor Kevin Wang was abruptly dismissed from his position at Sarasota's New College of Florida on March 12.

The Guardian – March 29th, 2025

Florida college fires Chinese professor under state's 'countries of concern' law

The New College of [Florida](#) has fired a Chinese language professor under a state law that restricts Florida's public universities from hiring individuals they deem to be from "countries of concern".

WUSF – March 28th, 2025

Takeovers: New College of Florida could expand while other public universities lose land and space

DeSantis aims to have the school take over the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, which is adjacent to the school but run by Florida State University. In the latest move, Florida lawmakers and New College administrators, apparently at DeSantis's behest, are discussing having New College take over the entire USF Sarasota-Manatee campus.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – March 24th, 2025

New College Alumni Association chair resigns, citing 'broken' leadership at institution

Benjamin Brown, chair of the New College of Florida Alumni Association, abruptly resigned - effective Tuesday - citing deep distrust in the school's leadership and a "broken" administration that has alienated alumni.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – March 21st, 2025

PHOTOS: Protest of Immigration Policies at New College of Florida

A couple of hundred people showed up to protest outside of New College of Florida Wednesday morning March 20, 2025, during a immigration panel with Border Czar Tom Homan, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and New College of Florida President Richard Corcoran.

WUSF – March 20th, 2025

Protesters in Sarasota call ongoing immigration enforcement policies 'a slap in the face of America'

An estimated 200 people gathered on Thursday outside the New College of Florida in protest of President Donald Trump's immigration policies.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – February 4th, 2025

[DeSantis calls in budget for New College to take over Ringling Museum from Florida State](#)

Oversight of the [John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art](#) could fall under the New College of Florida umbrella with a new proposal from Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Tampa Bay Times – January 7th, 2025

[DeSantis adds conservative reformers to University of West Florida board](#)

One has been a vocal critic of feminism, while another published a piece on privatizing public universities.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – January 6th, 2025

[DeSantis reappoints two New College trustees on anniversary of conservative board overhaul](#)

DeSantis reappointed Joseph Jacquot and Charles Kesler – two of his picks that were part of his conservative overhaul of the college – to the board Monday. The reappointments come two years after [DeSantis shook up the 13-member board](#) with six new trustees as part of the college's transformation to the "Hillsdale of the South."

Tampa Bay Times – January 1st, 2025

[Why do so many Florida universities hire politicians as presidents?](#)

The state's public colleges are increasingly hiring former lawmakers as leaders. Experts say that's not a coincidence.

Ms. Magazine – December 28th, 2024

[Ms. Magazine's Top Feminists of 2024](#)

Former New College Professor and Head of the Gender Studies Department Amy Reid was named one of Ms. Magazine's top feminists of 2024 for her work as a faculty Trustee on the NCF Board of Trustees, advocating for the value of Gender Studies, for the best interests of students and faculty, and for academic freedom.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – December 14th, 2024

[New College to name baseball field for developer Carlos Beruff after large donation](#)

The college's future baseball field, which President Richard Corcoran's new administration has long hinted it would pursue, is a step closer to construction with a million-dollar donation from local developer Carlos Beruff.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – November 22nd, 2024

[New College president removes foundation member after a negative audit](#)

Following an audit that found “years of operating deficits” and a policy change granting New College of Florida President Richard Corcoran the power to remove members of the college’s direct support organizations, a member of the New College Foundation board is out by Corcoran’s order.

Tampa Bay Times – November 21st, 2024

[New College signals changes with new courses, mission statement](#)

Trustees approved changes over the objections of student and faculty representatives at a board meeting Tuesday.

Inside Higher Ed – November 21st, 2024

[A Fight Over the New College of Florida Foundation](#)

Changes to NCF regulations will allow the board and administration to exert more control over the foundation. Critics worry officials will raid restricted funds.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – November 14th, 2024

[New College to offer 'woke movement' course taught by right-wing media personality](#)

New College will offer an independent study course called “The Woke Movement” in January, as [first reported by the Tampa Bay Times](#). Andrew Doyle, a British conservative media personality and presidential scholar in residence at New College, will teach the monthlong course.

&

Tampa Bay Times – November 12th, 2024

[New College of Florida offers course in ‘Woke’ movement](#)

The “Woke” Movement — offered as a one-month independent study in January — paints the movement as “a kind of cult” that’s methods are “essentially illiberal” and whose members “are capable of the most dehumanizing behavior,” according to the course description emailed to students Sunday evening.

The Guardian – November 12th, 2024

[Revealed: Florida liberal arts college in rightwing hiring spree after takeover](#)

New College of [Florida](#), which has been the subject of a rightwing takeover that has reversed its previous reputation as a liberal arts school, has hired ideologically aligned rightwing faculty and staff for a range of positions, in a process that an internal open letter said “often replaced faculty expertise with administrative fiat”

Ms. Magazine – November 11th, 2024

[Books in Dumpsters, But Ideas Thrive: The Resilient Legacy of New College of Florida](#)

The power and influence of education—whether that be in classrooms or what we learn from each other when we join together in struggle—resists finite definitions.

Inside Higher Ed – October 29th, 2024

[A Clash Over Core Curriculum at New College of Florida](#)

Faculty say administrators at the public liberal arts institution are changing core course offerings in a way that is ideologically driven and harmful to students.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 30th, 2024

[New College national ranking drops double-digits for the second year in a row](#)

New College of Florida's national stock [took a hit for the second year in a row](#), with another drop in U.S. News and World Report's ranking of the top liberal arts schools in the county — though New College representatives say the ranking doesn't accurately reflect the school's status.

The Guardian – September 28th, 2024

[Florida university to host extremist after DeSantis-led lurch to right](#)

New College of Florida (NCF) will host the [extremist](#) writer Steve Sailer, who has been described as a “[white supremacist](#)” and a “[proponent of scientific racism](#)”, at a [college-branded public event](#) next month.

Florida Phoenix – September 18th, 2024

[New College of Florida spending called into question](#)

The school spends vastly more per student than any other university

Tampa Bay Times – September 18th, 2024

[State pushes back on New College's \\$15M funding request](#)

New College's per-student operating cost already dwarfs the state average, including at larger schools.

Tampa Bay Times – September 6th, 2024

[New College fires librarian over book disposals](#)

New College has fired its dean of libraries, saying she was responsible for the improper disposal of thousands of books and ignored the advice of a New College attorney.

Inside Higher Ed – August 20th, 2024

[New College of Florida Is Dumping Books—and Losing Professors](#)

The conservative transformation of the institution continues, with gender studies texts being tossed and the faculty chair, plus other professors, taking leave.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 17th, 2024

[Amy Reid, chair of New College of Florida faculty and gender studies, is leaving](#)

Professor Reid told the Herald-Tribune that she is taking a leave of absence without pay for a year to work a grant position with PEN America, a nonprofit focused on protecting free expression. Reid has been with New College since 1996, and was the founding director of the school's gender studies program.

Diverse Education – August 16th, 2024

[ACLU of Florida Rebukes Book Disposal at New College of Florida](#)

"We vehemently condemn the reprehensible actions taken by New College of Florida, where hundreds of library books — including those concerning LGBTQ+ studies — have been unceremoniously discarded, destined for a landfill," said Bacardi Jackson, executive director of the ACLU of Florida.

Them – August 16th, 2024

[One Year After DeSantis Takeover, Florida's New College Throws Out Hundreds of LGBTQ+ Books](#)

More than a year after Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis [seized control of the progressive public university New College of Florida](#) and abolished its gender studies department, the effects of the Republican takeover are now on display, as hundreds of perfectly good books get thrown in the trash.

&

ABC News – August 16th, 2024

[Books dumped en masse at Florida's New College, sparking controversy](#)

The New College of Florida is under fire after what appears to be hundreds of books that have been wiped from its collection and discarded on the street.

&

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 16th, 2024

[New College of Florida tosses hundreds of library books, empties gender diversity library](#)

Hundreds of [New College of Florida](#) library books, including many on LGBTQ+ topics and religious studies, are headed to a landfill.

Washington Times – August 6th, 2024

[Three Florida professors file lawsuit against Republican-led tenure restrictions](#)

Professors Sarah Hernandez of the New College of Florida, Adriana Novoa of the University of South Florida and Steven J. Willis of the University of Florida filed the [lawsuit](#) in coordination with NCF Freedom this month in Leon County.

Florida Politics – August 2nd, 2024

[Florida professors challenge changes to tenure as unconstitutional](#)

NCF Freedom will back the challenge from faculty at New College, UF and USF over a new law abolishing tenure.

Tampa Bay Times – August 1st, 2024

[UF, USF, New College professors sue over Florida's new tenure rules](#)

The suit says undergoing post-tenure review every five years could restrict academic freedom and cost access to grants.

WUSF – July 18th, 2024

[Judge rejects requests by New College's board to dismiss a higher-ed law challenge](#)

A Leon County circuit judge has rejected requests by the New College of Florida Board of Trustees and the state university system's Board of Governors to dismiss a challenge to a 2023 law that did away with arbitration in university employment disputes.

Florida Phoenix – July 11th, 2024

[New College of Florida tears up nature preserve, claims it's an improvement](#)

Neighbors and alumni are outraged but President Richard Corcoran pushes on with his expansion of sports facilities

Your Observer – July 5th 2024

[Formal complaint filed over New College's development of Uplands Preserve](#)

Five identical complaints, filed by four former New College students and an environmental activist, charge New College President Richard Corcoran with violating the campus' master plan and possibly violating local and federal laws, including unpermitted destruction of wetlands and disturbing endangered birds in the area, including bald eagles.

Your Observer – June 28th, 2024

[Residents opposed to New College tree removal booted from meeting](#)

Residents opposed to New College of Florida clearing trees and mangroves in the Uplands Preserve were kicked out of the State University System's Board of Governors meeting Friday in Orlando after being denied a chance to speak on the issue.

Tampa Bay Times – June 14th, 2024

[New College's new plan: more students, more faculty, more 'civil discourse'](#)

The New College of Florida Board of Trustees on Thursday approved a revamped five-year business plan, setting up the release of tens of millions of dollars earmarked for the school in the state budget.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – June 13th, 2024

[New College of Florida board approves new strategic plan, core curriculum with AI elements](#)

The newly-approved framework for New College's core curriculum, which includes courses built around "logos" and "techne", would be implemented by Fall 2025. The proposal included AI-generated art of Benjamin Franklin flying a drone, Marie Curie holding bitcoin, Isaac Newton using a Macbook, and a Greek philosopher wearing a virtual reality headset.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – June 12th, 2024

[New College of Florida to renew hotel contracts, build portables amid housing shortage](#)

New College of Florida is moving to renew its contracts with local hotels and build temporary portable housing units as it continues to face a housing crisis on campus from the closure of dorms and [an influx of student-athletes driving record enrollment](#).

Florida Politics – June 2nd, 2024

[Ron DeSantis says revamped New College is like where the 'Founding Fathers' went to school](#)

Speaking Saturday at [New College](#) in Sarasota, DeSantis boasted that the school has been wrested away from “the Left,” and is now akin to places that the property-owning white men who established the United States learned.

ABC7 – June 1st, 2024

[Governor DeSantis speaks at New College in Sarasota](#)

A video of the Governor’s speech at New College of Florida.

Your Observer – May 30th, 2024

[New College's tree removal from Uplands stuns neighbors](#)

Despite objections from neighbors and a stop order issued — and then rescinded — by the city of Sarasota, New College of Florida is continuing to clear 100-year-old pine trees from a portion of an area known as the Uplands Preserve to make way for new athletic facilities.

WFLA – May 29th, 2024

[New College of Florida plans to discipline students for ‘disrupting’ graduation](#)

In an op-ed [published Monday in the Wall Street Journal](#), New College President Richard Corcoran said students will face consequences, including “withholding degrees until students issue apology letters or take mandatory classes on civil discourse to suspension or expulsion.”

Sarasota Herald Tribune – May 29th, 2024

[New College of Florida set to punish student protesters following boos at commencement](#)

New College President Richard Corcoran said the school could withhold degrees from students who protested.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – May 28th, 2024

[City of Sarasota orders New College of Florida to stop removing trees from Uplands Preserve](#)

[New College of Florida](#)’s construction at the Uplands Bayfront Preserve is in limbo as the City of Sarasota ordered them to halt the removal of trees in an effort to turn the land into athletics facilities.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – May 24th, 2024

[New College of Florida removes trees, plants from Uplands to build sports fields](#)

Activists and alumni claim the college lacks the authority to remove anything — a fact refuted by New College leadership.

WSLR – May 22nd, 2024

[New College Commencement Erupts in Protest](#)

But the keynote speaker’s biggest challenge to be heard was the microphone.

New College of Florida – May 21st, 2024

2024 New College Commencement Address

The 2024 Commencement speech by Joe Ricketts. Ricketts's speech was interrupted by technical difficulties and boos from the crowd.

The Nation – May 21st, 2024

Inside New College of Florida's Counter-Commencement

As Ron DeSantis and Chris Rufo plunge ahead with the school's transformation into a right-wing clown college, the students have become the adults in the room.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – May 18th, 2024

New College of Florida graduation: Boos for Joe Ricketts, cheers for student president

New College of Florida graduated its senior class Friday at a ceremony with scattered boos and jeers directed at the evening's commencement speaker: [conservative billionaire Joe Ricketts](#).

Sarasota Herald Tribune – May 18th, 2024

New College of Florida Class of 2024 Graduation

Photos from the New College 2024 graduation ceremony.

Popular Information – May 16th, 2024

The myth of "woke" indoctrination at American universities

According to some prominent billionaires, political pundits, and media figures, American universities have undergone a radical transformation... These claims are never backed by data. They are based on anecdotes or a general impression. But, despite a lack of factual evidence, the idea that universities have gone "woke" and are indoctrinating students with far-left ideologies has gained widespread acceptance.

Your Observer – May 14th, 2024

SRQ CEO rebuts FAA's claims in New College land sale denial

Rick Piccolo sends documents to the Federal Aviation Administration that prove it knew of and approved the lease of 31 acres it now wants to sell to New College of Florida.

WUSF – April, 24th, 2024

Seven reasons why the FAA blocked Sarasota airport's land sale to New College

The airport is growing fast, tripling traffic in the last several years. And New College of Florida is also trying to expand. The deal aimed to satisfy both, but was nixed by federal aviation authorities.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – April 12th, 2024

FAA rejects a major land deal between New College of Florida and Sarasota Airport

The Federal Aviation Administration has rejected [a major land deal between New College of Florida and the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport](#) designed to avert a financial nightmare for New College that awaits at the end of a 100-year land lease agreement and pave the way for long-term plans for the college's campus.

Tampa Bay Times – April 12th, 2024

[New College President Richard Corcoran gets \\$200K bonus after first year](#)

Trustees said he met the goals they laid out for him as the school underwent a controversial transformation.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – April 11th, 2024

[New College of Florida board approves \\$200k bonus for Corcoran, denies tenure to professor](#)

New College of Florida's board of trustees voted Thursday to approve tenure for six professors, deny tenure to Hugo Viera-Vargas, and approve a \$200,000 bonus for President Richard Corcoran as part of his yearly evaluation.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – March 27th, 2024

[State education officials OK \\$1.1 million in funding for Sarasota's New College of Florida](#)

New College of Florida is in line to receive \$1.1 million in what is known as performance-based funding after state university system officials on Wednesday signed off on a "student success plan monitoring report" presented by the school's president, Richard Corcoran.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – March 26th, 2024

[SRQ airport inks major deals with New College, Manatee County and airline carriers](#)

The Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport approved a land swap agreement to convey 30.94 acres of land to New College of Florida permanently, pending final approval by the Federal Aviation Administration and state funding appropriations.

ABC7 – March 22nd, 2024

[Residents express concern over New College of Florida expansion](#)

Following the release of the Campus Master Plan, Student Success Plan, and Business Plan, members of the community communicated their discontent: "...there were projects brewing that would have such a big impact on our neighborhood and we did not have any warning until the plans were presented to us."

Sarasota Herald Tribune – March 19th, 2024

[New College of Florida to receive millions from state, but money comes with requirements](#)

New College of Florida is slated to receive tens of millions of dollars in a budget approved this month by the Legislature — but will face requirements tied to some of the money. The proposed 2024-2025 state budget, which needs approval from Gov. Ron DeSantis, includes \$10 million for "operational enhancements" at the school.

Times Higher Education – March 12th, 2024

[‘Case for Colonialism’ professor hired by New College of Florida](#)

Author of controversial book and journal paper takes up one-year 'presidential scholar' post after institutional takeover by allies of Ron DeSantis

USA Today – March 11th, 2024

[Florida students, teachers can discuss sexual orientation, gender ID under 'Don't Say Gay' bill settlement](#)

A settlement has been reached between Florida education officials and civil rights attorneys who had challenged a state law that critics dubbed "[Don't Say Gay](#)" – and both sides are claiming victory.

WUSF NPR – March 7th, 2024

[USF hosts New College president in debate on DEI public funds](#)

New College of Florida president Richard Corcoran, who spoke against public funding for DEI programs, and Ameshia Cross, of the Education Trust, kept the discussion cordial despite the polarizing topic.

Tampa Bay Times – March 5th, 2024

[Florida lawmakers put conditions on DeSantis' spending as they unveil \\$117B budget](#)

When state lawmakers unveiled their [\\$117.4 billion budget](#) for the next fiscal year on Tuesday, it included strings on some of DeSantis' top priorities, as well as some cuts.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – March 5th, 2024

[New College of Florida baseball player accused of battery on Sarasota police officer](#)

A New College of Florida baseball player faces a court appearance later this month following his arrest in February on charges of public intoxication, possession of a fake ID and battery on an officer.

Raw Story – March 5th, 2024

[Florida Republicans fire warning shot at DeSantis for his 'anti-woke' college experiment](#)

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has spent over a year transforming the Sarasota-based New College of Florida into a prototype for conservative-governed, "anti-woke" higher education — but [according](#) to independent investigative reporter Jason Garcia, the GOP-backed legislature may be sending him a warning that he needs to stop messing around.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – February 29th, 2024

[New College of Florida hires professor who argued in favor of colonialism](#)

New College of Florida is hiring professor Bruce Gilley, who once published an article arguing in favor of colonialism, the college announced in a press release Thursday.

The American Conservative – February 29th, 2024

[Why I Am Joining the Reconquista](#)

Bruce Gilley, a professor who was recently hired under contract at New College ([and who wrote an article arguing in favor of colonialism](#)), contends that "taking back power from the academic left depends on storming the public institutions, not fleeing from them."

The Daily Beast – February 26th, 2024

[Florida College Hit With Rare Sanction After DeSantis' 'Egregious' Takeover](#)

[New College of Florida](#), the school infamously overhauled by Gov. [Ron DeSantis](#) and his pals, was slapped with a rare sanction by a national faculty group Monday for “egregious and extensive” standards violations during its conservative takeover last year.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – February 26th, 2024

[National college professors group sanctions New College: 'politically motivated takeover'](#)

The New College takeover was 'one of the most egregious and extensive violations of AAUP principles and standards at a single institution in recent memory,' the organization said.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – February 23rd, 2024

[New College of Florida board approves airport land purchase, new graduate degree program](#)

At its first meeting of the spring semester and first in-person meeting since October, New College of Florida's Board of Trustees met to approve several items ranging from multi-million-dollar land deals to new academic programs.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – February 18th, 2024

[New College of Florida one year later: A tumultuous transition for liberal arts school](#)

Following many of the changes at New College, the school's [retention rate of first-year students plummeted and dropout rates spiked, according to metrics shared by the college's provost on Oct. 12](#). In the 2023 U.S. News and World Report rankings of top liberal arts colleges in the country, [New College dropped 24 spots compared to the previous year](#).

Sarasota Herald Tribune – February 16th, 2024

[New College activist group drops federal academic freedom lawsuit over state law](#)

Lawsuit could resume if there are further “concrete actions” taken by New College of Florida administration against academic freedom.

Florida Politics – February 15th, 2024

[Academic freedom lawsuit dropped against New College](#)

[NCF Freedom](#) filed a motion to voluntarily dismiss the case within the courts. The dismissal was filed without prejudice.

NCF Catalyst – February 13th, 2024

[Richard Corcoran and David Rancourt present controversial comedy bits in off-campus ISP](#)

On Jan. 25, a [video](#) uploaded to Youtube by [McCurdy's Comedy](#), a historic theater in downtown Sarasota, documented New College Dean of Students David Rancourt's stand-up comedy debut. Not all New College students are laughing, however.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – February 1st, 2024

[New College of Florida dean of students performs comedy routine some call 'homophobic'](#)

A recording of [New College of Florida's](#) dean of students making jokes about homosexual sex at a downtown Sarasota comedy club has circulated social media platforms, with some calling the jokes he made homophobic.

Daily Beast – February 1st, 2024

[New College of Florida Dean Cracks Homophobic Jokes in Baffling Comedy Routine](#)

The newly installed dean of students at [New College of Florida](#) cracked homophobic jokes and made a series of bizarre comments as part of a recent stand-up comedy routine—a bit that's managed to enrage some students and alumni even as the university continues to stand behind him.

New York Times – January 31st, 2024

[Recruited to Play Sports, and Win a Culture War](#)

Many New College athletes had no idea they were part of Ron DeSantis's attack on "woke ideology." Then the semester began.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – January 17th, 2024

[New College of Florida faculty vote against college's online program with billionaire](#)

New College of Florida faculty approved a resolution Wednesday afternoon expressing their [disapproval of the recently announced online degree program](#) in collaboration with [billionaire GOP megadonor Joe Ricketts](#).

Sarasota Herald Tribune – January 12th, 2024

[New College of Florida and Joe Ricketts: What to know about their new partnership](#)

Ricketts, the billionaire former founder of TD Ameritrade, founder of Ricketts Great Books College and owner of the Chicago Cubs Major League Baseball team, told the audience at College Hall that he had been trying relentlessly for years to get connected to universities across the country.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – January 11th, 2024

[New College of Florida launches online degree program in collaboration with billionaire](#)

[New College of Florida](#) is launching an online liberal arts degree featuring courses with material provided in collaboration with Ricketts Great Books College, a program created by billionaire [Joe Ricketts](#), a Gov. Ron DeSantis mega-donor.

&

ABC Action News – January 11th, 2024

[New College of Florida announces new 2-year associates degree program](#)

The controversial New College of Florida has announced a new two-year liberal arts degree, and it will be open to students anywhere through distance learning.

[According to the school](#), after a student completes the A.A. degree, they will then have the option to earn a four-year bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts by attending classes either online or in person.

Florida Politics – December 28th, 2023

[Richard Corcoran says New College business plan ‘wildly misrepresented’](#)

A \$400M capital outlay plan includes \$173M in non-state funding, Corcoran stressed.

Tallahassee Democrat – December 27th, 2023

[Biggest Florida scandals in 2023: Zieglers, New College, Disney, Nazis and other controversies](#)

In 2023, Florida was something of an epicenter for scandals and controversies that shook the nation. The Sunshine State got a lot of attention this year, and most of it wasn't good.

SRQ Magazine – December 25th, 2023

[New College Retains Accreditation](#)

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges informed the Sarasota university last week that the school remains in compliant with the Principles of Compliance for the body. That followed multiple unsolicited accusations about the school submitted to the organization and investigation since September.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – December 21st, 2023

[Accrediting agency dismisses complaints filed against New College alleging violations](#)

New College of Florida's accrediting body sent two letters to President Richard Corcoran affirming that several complaints made against the college by third parties were without merit, the college announced Wednesday.

The Center for Public Integrity – December 19th, 2023

[Attacks on tenure leave college professors eyeing the exits](#)

Republican-led efforts to dismantle free-speech protections on college campuses could reshape the geography of higher education.

Slate – December 14th, 2023

[Dismantling the House of Liberal Academia](#)

There's a reason disputes like what happened to the college presidents are becoming more and more common.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – December 12th, 2023

[New College board approves terms for a major land deal with the SRQ airport](#)

New College of Florida inked a preliminary agreement for a major land purchase from the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport on Monday, and the college is now preparing its pitch to state legislators for millions of dollars in investment for campus improvements.

MSNBC – December 7th, 2023

[Florida is showing red states how to dismantle higher education](#)

The [American Association of University Professors](#) has just released a frightening report entitled "Political Interference and Academic Freedom in Florida's Public Higher Education System." It is

a lengthy, meticulously researched and sober account of the destruction that [Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis](#) is inflicting upon his state's colleges and universities.

Tallahassee Democrat – December 6th, 2023

[Professors union report says Florida higher ed policies must be fought 'tooth and nail'](#)

"The survival of the institution of higher education free from political interference and the ideological agenda of autocrats — a cornerstone of democratic societies — hangs in the balance," wrote a special committee put together by the American Association of University Professors. [Read the report here.](#)

Florida Politics – December 5th, 2023

[Gov. DeSantis seeks another big budget boost at New College](#)

A budget proposal from Gov. Ron DeSantis provides more than \$37 million for New College of Florida. That's not including reappropriation of money marked for the Sarasota school last year.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – December 5th, 2023

[New College hires lobbyist as it seeks federal funds to revitalize historic estate](#)

New College of Florida has hired Ballard Partners to lobby for federal funding to revitalize the historic Ellen and Ralph Caples Estate, which is a part of the Caples-Ringling Estates Historic District in Sarasota known for its connections to the Ringling Bros. Circus.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – November 28th, 2023

[Higher ed joke? New College trustee Christopher Rufo nominated for UC Berkeley chancellor](#)

[Christopher Rufo, a conservative activist and New College of Florida trustee](#), was nominated as a candidate to be the chancellor of the University of California Berkeley, according to a social media post by Rufo.

Florida Politics – November 27th, 2023

[New College of Florida hires Ballard Partners for federal lobbying work](#)

Ballard Partners was hired to monitor federal education and infrastructure legislation, according to [O'Dwyers](#), a public relations trade publication.

Bay News 9 – November 26th, 2023

[A New Era for New College](#)

Richard Corcoran discusses the Israel-Hamas war and its impact on college campuses, his appointment as President of New College of Florida, and the direction of the school.

Sarasota Magazine – November 22nd, 2023

[Check Out the Winning Architectural Firm's Approach to Repurposing New College's I.M. Pei Dorms](#)

Sarasota firm Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors has been announced as the winner of the "[Reimagining Pei](#)" architectural competition led by [New College of Florida](#) and [Architecture](#)

[Sarasota](#), which aims to incorporate the east campus dorms into an athletic and recreational complex with retail and restaurants.

The Chronicle – November 15th, 2023

[Why is Stanley Fish Teaching at Florida's New College?](#)

An interview about politics, academic freedom, and “ideological odor.”

Chronicle of Higher Education – November 14th, 2023

[New College of Florida Seeks \\$400M for Conservative Transformation](#)

The high-priced business plan emphasizes new facilities and academic programs, as well as athletics. Officials say the money is needed to reach state goals.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – November 13th, 2023

[New College of Florida announces ‘Pathway to Teaching’ partnership with Manatee Schools](#)

[New College of Florida](#) and the Manatee County School District announced Monday the launch of a program to help place students aspiring to be teachers into classrooms and give them a mentor to help navigate the process of becoming one.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – November 9th, 2023

[Florida Board of Governors names new member to New College of Florida Board of Trustees](#)

Patterson, a Sarasota resident, was the co-founder and chief operating officer of Ascend Wireless Networks and is a graduate of Liberty University, a private evangelical Christian college in Virginia. He ran for Sarasota City Commission's District 2 seat in 2020, [receiving 380 votes](#).

Sarasota Herald Tribune – November 9th, 2023

[New College of Florida asks state for almost half a billion dollars over next five years](#)

New College of Florida President Richard Corcoran presented a business plan to Florida's university system Board of Governors on Wednesday that asks for almost half a billion dollars from the state over the next five years — a figure largely unseen by the small Sarasota liberal arts school.

WFLA – November 8th, 2023

[‘Haven for Harvard refugees’: Free tuition offered to Harvard students who want to transfer to New College of Florida](#)

New College of Florida President Richard Corcoran has declared the liberal arts school a “haven for Harvard refugees,” and is offering free tuition to students “facing intolerance or physical danger” at the Ivy League school.

The Capitolist – November 8th, 2023

[Sticker shock: New College business plan calls for \\$600k per student to implement conservative vision](#)

A highly-anticipated business plan presentation by New College of Florida (NCF), slated for Wednesday afternoon, will include a request that state lawmakers pony up \$420 million in direct and indirect state investment to help sustain an already-underway conservative makeover of the school, according to documents submitted to the Board of Governors before the meeting.

Teen Vogue – November 7th, 2023

[New College in Exile: Hampshire College](#)

After a hostile takeover by conservatives of Florida's tiny public honors college, so many students sought to transfer, a Massachusetts college took on 35 this semester alone.

The Capitolist – November 5th, 2023

[Budget hawks start to circle over New College of Florida's fiscal-fantasy business plan](#)

Pressure is mounting at New College of Florida in Sarasota, where a controversial new business plan is causing a stir among conservatives worried as much about budgetary discipline as they are about educational innovation.

Daily Collegian – October 29th, 2023

[Hampshire College offers admission to New College of Florida students](#)

New College has a curriculum similar to Hampshire College. Students create their own concentration and receive narrative evaluations instead of grades. Hampshire [put](#) out an admission offer for New College students, and offered to match their tuition.

Tallahassee Democrat – October 23rd, 2023

[Professors, students ask judge to temporarily block DeSantis' DEI funding ban](#)

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs allege that their First and Fourteenth Amendment rights are being violated in a variety of ways. They accuse the law of being vague and overbroad. They say it's "content based and viewpoint based censorship of speech in violation of the First Amendment."

Florida Phoenix – October 23rd, 2023

[U.S. judge in academic-freedom case promises speedy ruling; could block higher ed law](#)

A legal challenge to a Florida law forbidding university classes that "distort" history or programs that foster diversity may turn on whether it has actually harmed the group of professors, students, and others behind their lawsuit.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 20th, 2023

[New College of Florida board approves bigger contract with Richard Corcoran](#)

The contract makes Corcoran among the highest-paid university presidents in Florida's state university system, despite New College of Florida being the state's smallest public college.

Orlando Sentinel – October 20th, 2023

[DeSantis ally Corcoran gets \\$1.3 million contract as New College president](#)

New College of Florida President Richard Corcoran is set to earn up to \$1.3 million per year in salary and benefits under a five-year contract approved Friday, making him one of the highest-paid public university leaders in Florida.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 19th, 2023

[First Lady Casey DeSantis announces employment program with New College of Florida, DCF](#)

DeSantis, whose [husband was campaigning for president in South Carolina](#) during the press conference, said New College would become the first state university to be an employment sponsor with Hope Florida, a program through the DCF that helps Floridians transition off of public assistance programs.

ABC Action News – October 19th, 2023

[New College of Florida president's contract is unusually high, analysts say](#)

New College of Florida may be the smallest college in the state's public university system, but its newly minted president is on tap to become one of its highest-paid.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 13th, 2023

[Officials detail plans for major land swap between New College and SRQ airport](#)

A major land swap is in the works to avert a financial nightmare for New College of Florida that awaits at the end of a 100-year land lease agreement with the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 12th, 2023

[New College of Florida dropout rate spikes, retention rate falls amid DeSantis' transition](#)

New College of Florida lost more than twice the normal number of students it usually does between fall semesters this year, according to a report sent to faculty from the college's provost Wednesday.

Tampa Bay Times – October 10th, 2023

[Richard Corcoran's New College salary could get larger or stay the same](#)

Either way, the new president will be paid more than many higher education leaders.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 5th, 2023

[Florida education officials react to UF report that criticized New College transformation](#)

Some top state higher-education officials on Wednesday responded to [analyses by two unidentified University of Florida professors](#) of a New College of Florida business plan. The business plan came amid a series of changes at New College, after Gov. Ron DeSantis early this year appointed a slate of conservative trustees to lead the Sarasota school.

WMNF – October 4th, 2023

["Students Against Facism in Education" protest New College of Florida's new presidential pick](#)

Former Republican House Speaker [Richard Corcoran](#) was chosen yesterday as New College of Florida's permanent president after serving less than a year as interim president. The move further solidifies a veritable conservative grip on the traditionally liberal arts school as part of myriad of changes after Republican Governor Ron DeSantis appointed a majority of the Board of Trustees with conservative allies earlier this year, which ousted [past president Patricia Okker](#), and replaced her promptly with Corcoran. Even before the decision was announced, dozens of students gathered on campus in protest of the decision.

The Nation – October 4th, 2023

[How DeSantis Is Using Sports to Hijack a Florida College](#)

The far-right extremists in charge of New College are recruiting baseball players to overhaul the ideology of the student body.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 3rd, 2023

[New College of Florida trustees vote Richard Corcoran as permanent president](#)

Richard Corcoran will be New College of Florida's permanent president, shedding his interim title following an overwhelming vote in his favor by the board of trustees Tuesday.

ABC Action News – October 2nd, 2023

[New communications chief at New College of Florida is out after just 2 months](#)

Just two months after he was hired as part of the state's controversial overhaul at New College of Florida, the school's communications chief says he was fired.

SRQ Magazine – October 2nd, 2023

[New College Sues Bard College Over Alt Effort](#)

New College of Florida on Friday issued a cease-and-desist letter to Bard College, demanding it stop branding a new venture at AltNewCollege.org.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 2nd, 2023

[New College of Florida expected to officially make Richard Corcoran president this week](#)

New College of Florida's board of trustees is poised to select its next president at the upcoming meeting Oct. 3, [according to the meeting's agenda](#), a decision that is widely expected to result in giving interim president Richard Corcoran the permanent title.

Ms. Magazine – October 2nd, 2023

[New College of Florida Eliminates Gender Studies Program, Leaving Students in the Crossfire](#)

"What is happening at New College can happen anywhere"—making gender studies and its study of power dynamics more necessary than ever, says Dr. Viki Peer.

Florida Politics – September 30th, 2023

[New College sends cease-and-desist to Bard College over 'Alt New College' effort](#)

New College of Florida leaders have sent a cease-and-desist letter to an online effort featuring ex-professors who left the institution.

The legal move comes weeks after [Bard College](#) launched [Alt New College](#), an “online institute to support the academic freedom of faculty and students following the hostile takeover of New College of Florida.”

CNN – September 29th, 2023

[New College of Florida enters agreement with US Department of Education over alleged civil rights violation](#)

The New College of Florida said it has entered an agreement with the US Department of Education regarding a federal investigation launched earlier this month into allegations of discrimination based on disability.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 28, 2023

[New College of Florida settles with U.S. Department of Education in civil rights probe](#)

New College of Florida agreed to a settlement with the U.S. Department of Education regarding a federal investigation into compliance with federal disability access laws, according to a release from the college Thursday.

WUSF Public Media – September 27th, 2023

[New College of Florida alumni and supporters launch online learning platform as alternative to conservative makeover](#)

New College of Florida alumni and supporters have launched an online learning platform called [Alt New College](#).

Organizers say the project will feature free and subsidized lectures and courses in subjects that members of the college's new leadership have pulled back on.

The Guardian – September 26th, 2023

[‘This is not a Trumpy, conservative education’: Florida’s controversial new SAT alternative](#)

The Classic Learning Test (CLT) emphasizes a “classical” style of education, where students study great works throughout western civilization, including pieces by Plato, Shakespeare and Voltaire. It’s been called the “[Christian-backed](#)” SAT, which isn’t entirely incorrect, as before this month the test was only accepted in admissions to private, faith-based colleges.

neaToday – September 22nd, 2023

[Why Didn’t Hugo Viera-Vargas Get Tenure?](#)

The respected New College of Florida professor got caught up in DeSantis’ culture war.

New York Times – September 22nd, 2023

[Sports Are In, Gender Studies Are Out at College Targeted by DeSantis](#)

An influx of athletes is among many changes since Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida vowed to transform New College, a public institution, into a bastion of conservatism.

Inside Higher Ed – September 19th, 2023

[The Administrative Overhaul of New College of Florida](#)

Since February, Florida's public liberal arts college has hired numerous employees with little or no experience in higher education but deep ties to the Republican Party.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 18th, 2023

[New College of Florida plummets in national ranking amid DeSantis conservative overhaul](#)

As New College of Florida undergoes [a conservative transformation](#), the small public liberal arts honors school saw a dramatic drop in its national ranking, according to a newly released list.

WUSF – September 16th, 2023

[Richard Corcoran defends the conservative direction of New College at Tiger Bay Club event](#)

Richard Corcoran, the former state lawmaker turned interim president for [New College of Florida](#), defended the conservative direction the small liberal arts Sarasota school at an event for the [Tampa Tiger Bay Club](#) on Friday.

He made his case to be named the school's president permanently, even as he faced questions from the crowd, including a number of concerned parents of students and former students.

PEN America – September 15th, 2023

[PEN America is Among Partners of New "Alt New College" in Response to Hostile Takeover of FI College](#)

In light of the unprecedented hostile takeover of New College of Florida (NCF) and resulting limits on academic expression in Florida, members of the New College community have announced the creation of "Alt New College," (<https://www.altnewcollege.org/>) whose mission it is to bring leading thinkers and educators, including former NCF faculty, to teach free and subsidized lectures, tutorials and short courses and for-credit courses to support the academic freedom of students who have been put in the middle of a political crossfire by partisan politicians.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 15th, 2023

[New College of Florida President Corcoran downplays federal civil rights investigation](#)

Corcoran downplayed the investigation, calling it a "quote-unquote investigation, not an investigation," despite the DOE's letter to Corcoran saying it was "opening this disability discrimination allegation for investigation."

Florida Phoenix – September 15th, 2023

[Richard Corcoran says he's never compared New College of Florida to Hillsdale College](#)

Although Richard Corcoran says he wants to transform New College of Florida into a classical liberal arts institution, he emphasized on Friday that he himself has never said that his goal is to remake the school in the image of Hillsdale College, the small Christian school in Michigan that has been connected to Republican politics.

Chronicle – September 15th, 2023

[Why Scholars Are Creating an 'Alt New College'](#)

As New College of Florida continues to move in a different ideological direction, former students and faculty members are building what they see as an educational resistance.

They have joined national and international free-speech and education groups to form "[Alt New College](#)," a network of online courses for students who remain at the revamped New College and, as critics see it, face limits on what they can learn and say.

MSNBC – September 14th, 2023

[The feds are probing DeSantis' favorite propaganda hub](#)

New College of Florida, a school that Gov. Ron DeSantis has tried to transform into a bastion of right-wing thought, is facing a federal civil rights probe.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 13th, 2023

[New College: What we know about the federal civil rights investigation](#)

The federal investigation came after two discrimination complaints filed to the DOE. The DOE sent a letter to Interim President Richard Corcoran last week that involves alleged disability discrimination regarding the school's website, a complaint filed Aug. 24, according to a department spokesperson.

CNN – September 12, 2023

[New College of Florida under investigation for alleged civil rights violation](#)

The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights said it plans to investigate "whether the College, on the basis of disability, excluded qualified persons with disabilities from participation in, denied them the benefits of, or otherwise subjected them to discrimination in its programs, activities, aids, benefits, or services," attorney David Kutch with the Office of Civil Rights, wrote.

USA Today – September 9th, 2023

[After conservative overhaul, New College of Florida faces federal civil rights investigation](#)

The U.S. Department of Education has launched an investigation into [New College of Florida's trustees](#) and administration [following a civil rights complaint filed on Aug. 22](#), according to a letter sent Friday from the agency to the college's president.

CNN – September 8th, 2023

[Board of Governors for Florida's public universities votes to approve new CLT college entrance exam](#)

Florida's Board of Governors voted Friday to approve the use of results from the Classic Learning Test, or CLT, in college admissions. The approval makes Florida the first state university system to accept the SAT and ACT alternative, [the New York Times reported](#).

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 8th, 2023

[Civil rights complaint filed with U.S. Justice, Education against New College board, admin](#)

A civil rights complaint against New College of Florida's trustees and administration was filed to the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education on Aug. 22, according to documents obtained by the Herald-Tribune.

ABC Action News – September 6th, 2023

[New College's interim president talks about school's future, defends state's controversial takeover](#)

It took six months before Richard Corcoran agreed to sit down and talk about the state's controversial revamp of New College. "New College lost its way and went off center and got very traditionally left," Corcoran said during a recent interview from campus.

Inside Higher Ed – September 5th, 2023

[A New Home for New College of Florida Émigrés](#)

When conservative leaders took over Florida's only public liberal arts institution, Hampshire College officials knew they had to help. Now they're welcoming the first cohort of New College defectors.

Time Magazine – August 30th, 2023

[Christopher Rufo's Alarming and Deceptive Crusade Against Public Universities](#)

"Public universities," Christopher Rufo [wrote on August 11](#) on X (formerly Twitter), "are not a 'free marketplace of ideas.'"

This provocative statement doesn't fully convey Rufo's views on the subject; he's [noted elsewhere](#) that universities should be an "environment of open, substantive debate." But as a trustee at New College of Florida, Rufo has demonstrated the limits of his tolerance for ideas that differ from his own.

Alex Wagner Tonight, MSNBC – August 29th, 2023

['Toxic': Desantis' push to transform university drives out students, faculty](#)

Less than a year after Ron DeSantis appointed a new board of trustees to remake New College of Florida in the image of DeSantis' 'war on woke' political stunt, nearly 40 faculty members have left the small school, along with many students, who the board is trying to replace with lower standards and athletic scholarships.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 28th, 2023

[New College: What students had to say on the first day of classes](#)

Even with the \$10,000 Presidential scholarship, Nilah Johnson, a first year at New College of Florida, said there's a sense of anxiety hoping the college doesn't fall apart. With all the changes, faculty departures and facilities issues, she said New College is on sensitive ground.

MSNBC – August 27th, 2023

[New College of Florida's attack on gender studies gets 'classical liberal arts' all wrong](#)

This is part of a bigger plan to instantiate the education of ignorance at an institutional level.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - August 23rd, 2023

Upperclassmen Move into Hotel Amid Flurry of Housing Changes

New College of Florida upperclassmen moved into the Hyatt Place hotel just east of the campus Wednesday morning [amid a wave of housing assignment changes in the weeks before the first day of classes](#) Aug. 28.

Tampa Bay Times – August 20th, 2023

At New College orientation, students express hope and hesitation

Following a year of drastic change, incoming students prepare for their first semester.

Fox 13 – August 20th, 2023

Over 200 New College of Florida students move into local hotels due to air quality concerns on-campus dorms

With the first day of classes just a week away, many New College of Florida students spent Sunday morning moving their belongings into their assigned dorms on campus, but some found themselves checking into hotels.

Ms. Magazine - August 19th, 2023

Key Gender Studies Staff Resign from New College of Florida, ‘The State Where Learning Goes to Die’

Nicholas L. Clarkson, former assistant professor of gender studies at New College of Florida, has announced his resignation from the school, which used to be known as the most progressive public college in the state. Clarkson was the only full-time gender studies professor at New College. “Gender studies offers the vocabulary, conceptual frameworks, and practice tolerating the discomfort of the unfamiliar that would help us all navigate change more gracefully. But that’s why you canceled it.” [Read Clarkson’s powerful letter in full.](#)

Yahoo!News – August 16th, 2023

New College of Florida Embraces Affirmative Action for Men

While the college has typically been around two-thirds female, the Sarasota Herald-Tribune [reported](#) that the male population has skyrocketed in the incoming class—increasing a staggering 23 percentage points to now comprise 54 percent of the class.

Inside Higher Ed – August 16th, 2023

Chaos at New College of Florida

With the start of the semester two weeks away, students are grappling with absent professors, canceled classes and severe housing woes.

Tampa Bay Times – August 16th, 2023

A semester inside the siege: New College professor is trapped in the takeover

Professor Amy Reid, who has taught French and gender studies at New College of Florida for 28 years, and is now the Director of the imperiled Gender Studies department at NCF, defends her progressive haven from DeSantis’ conservative coup.

Florida Politics – August 15th, 2023

[David Rancourt joins New College as Dean of Students](#)

One of Florida's most prominent lobbyists has joined the faculty at New College of Florida.

Tampa Bay Times – August 15th, 2023

[Florida's new higher education law faces legal challenges](#)

A group of plaintiffs connected to New College of Florida has filed a federal lawsuit challenging a recently passed law bringing major changes to the state's higher education system.

Orlando Weekly – August 15th, 2023

[New College group says new state law censors courses, files federal lawsuit](#)

Alleging that numerous courses and topics will be prohibited or "severely curtailed" by a new state law, a group that opposes Gov. Ron DeSantis' efforts to remake New College of Florida filed a federal lawsuit Monday challenging the measure.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 14th, 2023

[New College professors, students file lawsuit to block DeSantis' higher education law](#)

A group formed to push back against [Gov. Ron DeSantis' conservative takeover of New College of Florida](#) has joined with professors and students at the college to file a lawsuit alleging a new law pushed by DeSantis violates free speech protections. The lawsuit seeks to have SB 266, [signed into law by DeSantis during a press conference at New College in May](#), declared unconstitutional.

Politico – August 14th, 2023

[College professors, students, sue to block Florida's law banning DEI spending](#)

The group seeks to block Florida from carrying out FL SB 266, which prohibits schools from spending state or federal funding on most programs or campus activities that advocate diversity and inclusion policies or promote political or social activism.

ABC 7 WWSB – August 14th, 2023

[NCF Freedom files lawsuit against the State of Florida over free speech](#)

In response to the passage of [Senate Bill 266](#), NCF Freedom has filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Florida Board of Governors of the State University System and the Board of Trustees at New College of Florida.

Them – August 14th, 2023

[DeSantis-Appointed Board Abolishes the New College of Florida's Gender Studies Major](#)

The New College of Florida's board of trustees — the majority of whom were appointed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis — has voted to begin the process of abolishing the institution's long-standing gender studies program. The move marks the latest in [DeSantis' ongoing fight against New College](#), formerly the most progressive public college in the state.

New York Magazine – August 11th, 2023

[The Latest Battle in the Conservative War on the American Mind](#)

When [Ron DeSantis](#) appointed six far-right trustees at the New College of Florida, he did so with destruction with mind. An inquisitive culture and quirky spirit once set the liberal-arts college apart from its peers, but what made it unique made it objectionable to the right. Now the college faces an involuntary transformation, and the latest casualty may be its gender-studies program.

Chronicle of Higher Education – August 10th, 2023

[New College of Florida's Board Starts to Dismantle Gender-Studies Program](#)

&

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 10th, 2023

[Christopher Rufo, New College board move to abolish longstanding gender studies program](#)

[New College of Florida's](#) trustees voted to begin the process of abolishing the college's gender studies program. The action came at the board's meeting Thursday. The vote was 7-3 in favor of eliminating the program.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 10th, 2023

[State drops charges against New College of Florida student accused of spitting on trustee](#)

The State Attorney's office dropped [misdemeanor battery charges against a New College of Florida student](#) who was accused of spitting on Christopher Rufo, a conservative activist and one of the school's trustees.

&

Tampa Bay Times– August 10th, 2023

[Charges dropped against New College student accused of spitting on trustee](#)

Orlando Weekly – August 7th, 2023

[New College of Florida professor, faculty unions sue state over arbitration](#)

The United Faculty of Florida, its New College chapter and professor Hugo Viera-Vargas filed a lawsuit Thursday in Leon County circuit court alleging the law violates collective-bargaining rights and unconstitutionally “impairs” an existing union contract.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 4th, 2023

[New College professor who was denied tenure sues school's board of trustees](#)

Faculty unions and a [New College of Florida professor who was denied tenure](#) have challenged the constitutionality of a new state law that did away with arbitration in university employment disputes.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 2nd, 2023

[A member of the New College Board of Trustees has resigned](#)

&

Tampa Bay Times – August 2nd, 2023

New College of Florida Trustee Mary Ruiz Resigns

Mary Ruiz, an appointee to the New College of Florida's board of trustees who pre-dated [Gov. Ron DeSantis' intervention to remake the college](#), resigned her position on the board Tuesday, according to a letter she sent to the panel that oversees the state's university system.

Sarasota Magazine – August 1st, 2023

A Competition Invites Architects to Transform New College of Florida Dormitories

The “Reimagining Pei” architecture competition, launched by the college in partnership with Architecture Sarasota, aims to incorporate the east campus dorms into an athletic and recreational complex with retail and restaurants.

Tampa Bay Times – August 1st, 2023

New College names 3 finalists for president, including Richard Corcoran

&

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 1st, 2023

Interim New College President Richard Corcoran finalist to fill job permanently

New College's [presidential search committee](#) picked Corcoran, University of Central Florida professor Tyler Fisher and former college president Robert Gervasi as the finalists and submitted their names to the college's board of trustees for consideration [in an accelerated search process](#).

The Guardian – July 30th, 2023

'I'm not wanted': Florida universities hit by brain drain as academics flee

Ron DeSantis's slew of laws attacking teaching of race and gender issues sees state's colleges struggle to fill faculty posts

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 27th, 2023

New College of Florida nets record number of new students, but at academic cost

Several admissions department officials expressed discomfort with the college's aggressive recruiting tactics.

Chronicle of Higher Education – July 27th, 2023

New College Says It's Giving Staff Higher Pay for Hitting Enrollment Goals. Is That Illegal?

New College of Florida may have violated federal law by dangling the prospect of increased pay to admissions staff members if they recruited a larger-than-usual incoming class for the upcoming academic year, experts said on Thursday.

Tampa Bay Times – July 27th, 2023

Faculty turnover at New College 'not a loss for Florida,' DeSantis says

If departing professors were teaching “Marxist studies,” the governor said, “I’m totally good with that.”

MSNBC – July 24th, 2023

[In Florida and Texas, we're seeing the costs of the right-wing's war on higher ed](#)

Conservative leaders are learning the hard lesson that their attempt to hurt professors will hurt students and their states at large.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 23rd

[What happens to New College in a post-DeSantis Florida?](#)

Sharon Landesman Ramey, a New College alum and former foundation board member, says New College faces a shaky future once Gov. Desantis moves on from his Florida governorship.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 19th, 2023

[New College of Florida student pleads not guilty to battery charge against trustee Rufo](#)

A New College of Florida student who was charged with misdemeanor battery by the state for an alleged spitting incident involving conservative activist and college Trustee Christopher Rufo has pleaded not guilty, according to court documents.

Tampa Bay Times – July 18th, 2023

[As New College wrestles with decaying dorms, new students get best rooms](#)

Instead of living in their original housing assignments, some returning students will be shifted into dorms with rampant mold and concerning structural problems identified by a consulting firm hired by the school. The May 22 report from Partner Engineering and Science Inc. said that two of the buildings to which students have been assigned — known as the Pei dorms — “should not be occupied in their current condition.” This shift is to make room for the new student athletes, who will be placed in the nicest, apartment-style dorms.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 18th

[New College board considering hotels for student housing, dorm renovation amid mold issues](#)

New College of Florida's trustees convened for a committee meeting Monday afternoon [to discuss issues surrounding housing](#) amid a record incoming group of students and mold problems in campus dorms. The board discussed using hotel rooms from a nearby Hilton on Tamiami Trail in Sarasota to accommodate a 150-bed shortfall as several student housing buildings are shut down due to renovations and mold issues making some buildings uninhabitable.

Tampa Bay Times — July 18th, 2023

[At New College of Florida, a ‘ridiculously high’ number of faculty are gone](#)

More than one-third of New College of Florida faculty will not be returning in the fall, according to Provost Bradley Thiessen, who called the 36 departures in a single year a “ridiculously high” number for a school with fewer than 100 full-time teachers.

88.5 WMNF – July 18th, 2023

[This New College of Florida student is transferring out of state because the school kicked them out of medically necessary housing](#)

WMNF spoke with **Basil Pursley**, who said: “After being kicked out of my medically necessary housing assignment, with no response from housing on how to fix it – I decided I was done” with New College of Florida and is transferring out of state.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 15th, 2023

New College pushes upperclassmen to dorms with mold issues amid influx of student-athletes

New College of Florida is shifting returning students into housing in buildings with mold problems identified by an outside consultant to make way for student-athletes and other incoming freshmen who are part of a conservative transformation of the school launched by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

The Capitolist – July 12th, 2023

Irony? New College relied on ultra-woke Mercer for Richard Corcoran’s bloated salary recommendation

New revelations have come to light that would make for an excellent sitcom: the recently conservatism-kissed New College of Florida used the consulting firm Mercer, LLC, an impeccably progressive consulting firm, to conduct an executive compensation analysis underpinning the salary for the school’s new interim president.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 12th, 2023

New College: More details in alleged spitting incident involving student and trustee Rufo

New College student Libby Harrity is scheduled to appear in court on July 27 on a battery charge for allegedly spitting on Board of Trustees member Christopher Rufo in May, according to a summons document. Rufo recently posted on Twitter about the charge, publicizing the student’s full name and date of birth to his +500,000 followers.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 11th, 2023

State charges New College student with battery for allegedly spitting on trustee Rufo

State prosecutors in Sarasota County filed charges against a New College of Florida student who allegedly spat on Christopher Rufo, a conservative activist vocally critical of diversity policies and critical race theory who was appointed as one of the colleges new trustees appointed to help transform the public liberal arts program.

NPR – July 11th, 2023

Florida universities might be in a 'brain drain' following state's 'war on woke'

University leaders in Florida are growing increasingly concerned about losing staff. Their concern comes as the state’s Republican Gov. and presidential hopeful Ron DeSantis continues his “war on woke” in the state, with colleges one of his preferred targets.

Tampa Bay Times – July 7th, 2023

New College will ask Florida for \$2M to combat “cancel culture”

TALLAHASSEE — The New College of Florida Board of Trustees on Thursday moved forward with a plan to request \$2 million from the state Legislature to set up a Freedom Institute aimed at combating “cancel culture” in higher education. The proposed institute would promote

“tolerance of opposing views” and “engage such views in civil discourse,” according to a description of the institute included in the trustees’ meeting agenda.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - July 7th, 2023

[New College of Florida Trustees OK request for \\$2 million for funding 'Freedom Institute'](#)

New College of Florida's trustees approved a [salary-plus-benefits range of up to \\$1 million for the president they intend to name later this summer](#), and agreed to ask state lawmakers for \$2 million to establish a "Freedom Institute" at the small honors liberal arts college undergoing a dramatic makeover.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - July 6th, 2023

[New College ramps up search for president, approves salary range ahead of trustees meeting](#)

Leaders at New College of Florida have ramped up the fast-paced search for a permanent president this week, reviewing a third-party market report laying out the salary range for the leader who will oversee the continuing [conservative transformation of the liberal arts college](#).

WUSF Public Media - July 6th, 2023

[New College approves a proposed pay range for its next president](#)

A 15-member committee signed off on a pay range \$487,000 to \$868,000 during a meeting Wednesday.

Chronicle of Higher Education – June 26th, 2023

[Silence From State Officials on Florida's New Anti-DEI Law Unnerves Critics, Employees](#)

With just days left before a sweeping new anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion law [SB266] in Florida takes effect, government and college officials have been mum about how or when they plan to implement and comply with the law, causing widespread confusion and anxiety.

Slate – June 25th, 2023

[College Librarians in Florida Are Hoping for the Best, but Preparing for the Worst](#)

Academic librarians react to SB266, including Helene Gold, who was fired from New College in late April.

NPR, *The Reveal* - June 24th, 2023

[The Culture War Goes to College](#)

In this episode of Reveal, NPR partners with freelance reporter and filmmaker Sam Greenspan, who is a graduate of New College, to examine the changes taking place there. Greenspan follows journalists at the Catalyst, the student newspaper, as they cover the rapid-fire changes that are throwing the future of the college into uncertainty. To close the show, host Al Letson interviews Democratic Florida Rep. Angie Nixon about her opposition to many of the governor's recent policies and the effects she thinks they'll have on students and educators in the state.

Chronicle of Higher Ed - June 22, 2023

[Florida's Governor Escalates a Yearslong Fight With College Accreditors](#)

[DeSantis'] suit, filed in federal court in Fort Lauderdale, seeks to block federal officials from enforcing the standards that accreditors set for colleges to receive billions of dollars in student aid... The new lawsuit reflects that college accreditation has become a key battlefield for Republican politicians across the country who want to reshape higher education in their image, particularly as accreditors have come to favorably view diversity, equity, and inclusion programs. Last month, DeSantis signed legislation outlawing diversity spending across his state's public colleges.

WUSF - June 21, 2023

[New College of Florida trustee saw an influx of cash to his foundation, according to a new report](#)

Rufo was once a documentary filmmaker and has a foundation to support his work. ... the nonprofit documentary foundation was generating between \$80,000 to \$400,000 a year depending on the workflow that was coming in around documentaries. But in 2021, that number spiked to almost \$2 million. And this tracks with the political activities that Rufo started engaging in.

Chronicle of Higher Ed - June 20, 2023

[Are Other States Poaching Florida's College Administrators?](#)

Miriam Wallace — who is now off to an arts and sciences deanship at the University of Illinois at Springfield — is one of several senior administrators to leave Florida in recent months as Republican politicians try to impose a new vision on the state's public colleges... Faculty in Florida and elsewhere are wary of an "incredible brain drain" over the next year or so, according to Andrew Gothard, president of United Faculty of Florida, the state's faculty union. And what's happening there could have national implications, as other GOP-led states take their cues from Florida on higher-ed policy.

Daily Beast - June 15, 2023

[Speaking Your Mind in Ron DeSantis' Free State of Florida Could Get You Fired](#)

This May, New College chose not to renew Wallenberg's contract. The only discernible explanation is the history professor's public opposition to the school's new leadership... The problem this poses for faculty speech is plain: Those employed on a contingent basis, from adjunct instructors to assistant visiting professors, are easily disposable and thus face great risk of retaliation for their speech.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 14, 2023

[Investigation into New College faculty censure letter denies claims](#)

An investigation by the administration into the claims within a recent censure letter targeting school leaders by New College of Florida's faculty concluded that the faculty's claims were unfounded.

NCF Freedom asks, what investigation took place?

[Read the memo](#)

[Read the censure](#)

[Read a faculty member's response](#)

Fort Myers News-Press - June 16, 2023

[Bishop Verot coach fighting cancer hired to build New College of Florida softball program](#)

The school announced in May plans to launch baseball, softball, men's and women's basketball, and men's and women's soccer in the upcoming academic year. New College will apply for entry into the NAIA Sun Conference on July 1, according to athletic director and head baseball coach Mariano Jimenez. Jimenez said the head softball coaching job had around 75 applicants...."I just think she's a dynamic mentor to young females," he said. "I just think she's going to make such a difference with those girls off the field."

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 12, 2023

['Logistical nightmare:' Sarasota Classic Car Museum faces hasty eviction by New College](#)

The museum site is owned by New College of Florida, which has leased the property to the tourist attraction for nearly 20 years... Now the college looks to turn the Sarasota Classic Car Museum into an athletic facility. At a New College board of trustees meeting on June 1, the board approved a plan to demolish the Palmer, Reichert and Knight buildings. Part of the plan included turning the car museum into a temporary space to accommodate student housing and other services displaced by the demolition. The property is about a hundred yards south of New College's Pei dorms, which are also likely to be demolished.

Reason - June 9, 2023

[Firing a Professor for 'Left-Wing' Views Is Unconstitutional](#)

On Tuesday, conservative activist and New College of Florida trustee Christopher Rufo announced that the college had declined to renew a visiting professor's contract because of his purportedly "left-wing" views. While Rufo hailed the ouster as a victory for the "classical liberal arts tradition," he didn't seem to realize that it was also likely a violation of the First Amendment. Read [the letter sent by FIRE](#), and [Corcoran's response](#).

Daily Kos - June 8, 2023

[The shocking real reason DeSantis targeted New College is foretelling of things to come](#)

Most people who live in this state haven't even heard about New College until this year, but if you keep track of the state's white nationalist movement, you know exactly what it is. The hatred they have for this school is unfathomable. It's no coincidence that this group has become so obsessed with the so-called liberal "indoctrination" at schools. If someone like Derek [Black] can change his mind with exposure to diversity, equality, and inclusion, what the hell will that do to people who weren't raised to hate others?

...The attack on New College is not just another piece of fodder on DeSantis' culture war, or another attempt to "own the libs." It was a deliberate assault on an institution that wounded the white supremacist movement.

Inside Higher Ed - June 6, 2023

[New College of Florida Denies Contract to DeSantis Critic](#)

Visiting professor of US History Erik Wallenberg's contract was not renewed. He pushed back on the takeover of NCF and the DeSantis education agenda by writing [a critical op-ed for Teen Vogue](#) and inviting Marvin Dunn—a Black historian and frequent DeSantis critic—to campus to discuss threats to academic freedom.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 1, 2023

[What to know from New College of Florida Board of Trustees meeting Thursday](#)

The board discussed and voted on the school's preliminary budget and held discussions about creating a new mascot for the college and admission numbers ahead of the first full year under a new, Gov. Ron DeSantis-appointed leadership. Topics: Preliminary budget, athletics and facilities funding; New College enrollment; Mascot change.

Tampa Bay Times - June 1, 2023

[New College of Florida replaces its quirky mascot with another — a tree](#)

Serving as the school's subversive mascot, the Null Set started as an oversight that became an in-joke among the bookish liberal arts students. More recently, it's served as a symbol of opposition to a new administration. That changed Thursday, when the school's board of trustees voted to replace the mascot with the Mighty Banyan... The updated mascot coincides with Interim President Richard Corcoran's push to make the school a destination for athletics-minded students. At Thursday's meeting, Corcoran emphasized that aggressive recruiting of athletes to New College would "almost certainly" lead to record enrollment come fall.

WUSF - May 24, 2023

[New College of Florida faculty vote to censure the board of trustees](#)

"What we're really concerned about is that the student experience is getting a lot worse, due to actions by the Board of Trustees," said Steve Shipman, New College Faculty Union President. In a written statement, a college spokesperson wrote that "a number of the items outlined in the censure are false. The vote was taken because of the fear of the unknown and concerns will subside once the faculty see how all of the changes we are making at New College are moving us in a direction of improvement and future stability for our campus. In less than 90 days, a significant portion of the faculty are aligning with all efforts for New College to become the best liberal arts college in the country."

Inside Higher Ed - May 24, 2023

[AAUP Calls to Fight 'Tooth and Nail' in Florida](#)

The American Association of University Professors released today a preliminary report sounding alarm about Florida higher education under Ron DeSantis's governorship—and calling for academe to fight back. The roughly 17-page preliminary report focuses on what's happening at New College of Florida, on "complicit" college and university administrators statewide, legislation, and the "chilling effect" produced by legislation even if it doesn't become law or survive legal challenges.

Vanity Fair - May 24, 2023

["It's Been Weird and Scary": On the Front Lines of New College's Student-Led Rebellion Against Ron DeSantis](#)

Alum David Canfield interviews students on campus and at the alternative commencement event, as well as keynote speaker Maya Wiley and fired librarian Helene Gold.

Tampa Bay Times - May 22, 2023

[New College of Florida faculty votes to censure trustees](#)

The school's revamped board has disregarded its "fiduciary duties," faculty members say. About 80% of the faculty voted in favor of a motion listing 13 complaints against the board, which was revamped on Jan. 6 when Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed six new trustees to change the direction of the small, liberal arts college. Since then, "we've just experienced one thing after another that illustrates that the board members are not fulfilling their fiduciary duties," said Liz Leininger, a faculty member who raised the motion on behalf of a colleague.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 20, 2023

[New College of Florida graduates turn backs, wear masks in protest of leadership changes](#)

Late in the speech [from speaker Scott Atlas], most of the several hundred attendees had stood with their backs turned chanting "Wrap it up" for about a minute... "It's disheartening that you'd have such an animosity by the school and the government towards its students," said Larry Silverman, 57, a parent of a New College graduate. "You wouldn't see a business that would really pick a fight with its own customers. And so it's sad because this was a special place."

Tampa Bay Times - May 19, 2023

[A difficult year at New College ends with a tense official graduation](#)

Graduates, parents, faculty and friends heard two vastly different speeches at the official ceremony. "It was shameful all around," said Elizabeth Mead, the mother of Shayne Mead, who graduated Friday with a degree in theater. "I agreed with a lot of what [Speaker Scott Atlas] said, but this was not the time or place for political propaganda," she said.... The class of 2023 "has fought to get education through the onset of a global pandemic, threats of mergers, multiple hurricanes and four presidents in four years," [Student speaker Sophia Brown] told the crowd.

MSNBC Alex Wagner Tonight - May 19, 2023

['Trumpy' commencement speaker rejected by New College grads celebrating own ceremony](#)

Alex Wagner reports on the unofficial commencement ceremony the New College of Florida class of 2023 held for themselves with civil rights lawyer Maya Wiley as guest speaker, and shares some of the less-than-welcoming reception at the official commencement of Trump Covid advisor Scott Atlas, the speaker booked by the DeSantis-stacked school board.

Rolling Stone - May 19, 2023

[Inside the Fight to Keep a Florida College Queer](#)

Ron DeSantis staged a hostile takeover of tiny New College, an LGBTQ oasis. Then, students dug in... students organized rallies, teach-ins, town halls, and trips to Tallahassee to lobby legislators against the changes... now, they're trying alternative means of subverting the top-down changes.

Critical Times Podcast, WSLR - May 19, 2023

[Interview with Alumni X Gonzalez and Derek Black](#)

An hour before the official graduation ceremony on the bayfront campus, two notable New College alumni sat down for a conversation at WSLR. When they landed as freshmen in Sarasota, X Gonzalez and Derek Black were on the opposed ends of the political spectrum. Now, they decided to share a microphone for the first time, to unite in their passionate defense of the liberal college that is under political siege. "I knew what we've been trying to protect, but seeing it really thriving actually almost surprised me," Derek says about being on campus this week.

FL Voice News - May 19, 2023

[Joseph Jacquot appointed by DeSantis to New College of Florida Board of Trustees](#)

Jacquot previously served as the General Counsel for the Executive Office of the Governor and is a member of the Jacksonville Bar Association and Leadership Florida. Jacquot is a shareholder of Gunster Law Firm in Jacksonville.

US News - May 19, 2023

[The Education of Ron DeSantis](#)

The Florida governor, backed by a cadre of culture warriors, has used education as a lever for rolling back social change. His critics fear that as president he would 'export this blueprint of authoritarianism to the rest of the country.'... [Librarian Helene] Gold's dramatic departure was not an administrative mishandling. In fact, it was the next step in a grander strategic plan – and the latest in a series of brash and controversial decisions handed down by the newly installed conservative majority on the board of trustees tasked by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, the likely 2024 presidential candidate, with remaking the public honors college in his vision.

NPR Morning Edition - May 18, 2023

[Why there will be 2 commencement ceremonies at New College of Florida](#)

Students raised over \$100,000 for the alternative graduation. Graduating student K. C. Casey: "We have board members who are actively telling students if they aren't mission-aligned, they should leave the school. They are intentionally trying to remove people for their identities and their beliefs."

Civil Discourse - Joyce Vance - May 15, 2023

[Bad News from Florida](#)

A thorough discussion of how SB 266 restricts academic freedom by prohibiting the state's public colleges and universities from continuing their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. It accomplishes that goal by prohibiting spending state or federal dollars on that work. The bill also restricts, to the point of extinction, meaningful discussion of the history of racism, sexism, and other forms of what the bill deems "oppression" in this country in core classes. It ends funding for programs that have been used to increase and retain diverse faculty and students.

Tampa Bay Times - May 15, 2023

[DeSantis signs 3 bills bringing major change to Florida universities](#)

The measures, which also apply to state colleges, would restrict classroom topics, affect who gets hired and erode tenure protections. "It's a bad day for higher education," lamented New College alum Jono Miller, a former adjunct professor at the school who spoke in an interview later. "It's going to be so devastating for the whole university system." Amy Reid, a professor of French and director of New College's gender studies program, said the signing event was sprung on faculty without warning during finals week. She said she fears the legislation will amplify an already chilling climate on campuses across the state. "What we know is that faculty are leaving Florida in droves, and universities throughout the system will have difficulty hiring and retaining qualified teachers in all fields."

Alex Wagner Tonight - May 13, 2023

[Florida college students arrange separate commencement, rejecting board's Trumpy speaker](#)

Alex Wagner reports that the New College of Florida's class of 2023 are arranging their own graduation commencement ceremony with a special speaker after Ron DeSantis's board imposed one of Donald Trump's dubious Covid advisors as the official commencement speaker.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 12, 2023

[New College campus café re-opens with vendor tied to Interim President Corcoran](#)

New College leadership contracted with Sorrento Sweets... to operate from the Four Winds Café space from April 25 to May 18... The contract also states the college will reimburse Sorrento Sweets for 500 student charges per week, not to exceed \$7,500 per week, which could

total more than \$22,000. Sorrento Sweets is owned in part by Jimmy Barbarise, who was the athletic director at Classical Preparatory Academy, which New College Interim President Richard Corcoran's wife founded in 2011, from 2017 until 2022.

Note: cups from Sorrento Sweets reference bible verse Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Seeking Rents, Jason Garcia - May 12, 2023

[Report: After DeSantis intervened, a state college scrapped its search for a new president and will hand the job to a politician](#)

On April 14, just three days before trustees at a small state college in a rural corner of Florida were set to pick the school's next president, Gov. Ron DeSantis suddenly intervened. Fred Hawkins, 45, does not have an advanced degree or any experience as a college administrator. What he does have is loyalty to DeSantis.

The Catalyst - May 10, 2023

[Interview with Professor Nicolas Delon, Vice Chair of Faculty](#)

Nicolas Delon, professor of Philosophy, is interim Vice Chair of the Faculty until two of his colleagues begin their term on May 17. When the Catalyst asked Delon about the greatest concern facing the faculty at this moment, his reply on May 2 was that uncertainty surrounding the "likely curriculum changes" for the upcoming fall semester is placing a burden on the faculty. "Those changes [to the curriculum] are being implemented with or without the coordination of the faculty, who may have to teach some of those courses," Delon shared. "We may have to recruit colleagues for some of those courses knowing that we currently have some visiting assistant professors whose contracts need to be renewed but have not been renewed. We have searches that have been going on but put on hold for months now. We're losing candidates. "In addition to that, we know that the administration is currently trying to hire a slate of new faculty, without any faculty input," Delon continued. "We're really in the dark as to which of our colleagues are likely to stay in the fall and who our future colleagues will be if they manage to recruit the faculty they want, and how those different people fit into the new curriculum."

Florida Politics - May 10, 2023

[Senate refuses to confirm one of Gov. DeSantis' New College trustees](#)

Eddie Speir testified to Senators about sharing Christian 'truths' to the student body on campus. Any future for Eddie Speir on the board of trustees in doubt.

Tampa Bay Times - May 9, 2023

[New College picks Trump COVID adviser Scott Atlas as commencement speaker](#)

The controversial doctor is known for promoting herd immunity as a response to the pandemic. Atlas is a senior fellow at Stanford University and a fellow in the Academy for Science and Freedom at the Washington D.C. campus of Hillsdale College, the small Michigan school seen as a model for New College as it undergoes a major transformation engineered by DeSantis.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 9, 2023

New College of Florida to accept 'classical and Christian' alternative to SAT and ACT

New College would be the first Florida public university to accept the Classic Learning Test, which is only accepted by about 200 colleges and universities nationwide, including the conservative, Christian Hillsdale College in Michigan. New College Board of Trustees member Christopher Rufo also sits on the CLT's board of directors. Interim New College President Richard Corcoran said the school's acceptance of the CLT would help extend New College admissions to more homeschooled and "classically educated students."

WMNF - May 9, 2023

Former and current New College faculty share concerns about present, future of institution

Sarah Hernandez said she's been setting aside time in her lectures for students to vent. Creating this space for students allows them to then focus on the course's subject matter. Though, Hernandez said the students are very resilient. "That's part of the work we're doing," Hernandez said, "teaching them the skills, teaching them the ways in which they can build and strengthen their resiliency, so they're able to get the work done and they're able to push forward and learn."

Inside Higher Ed - May 8, 2023

The Political Trials of a Southern Accreditor

Long accustomed to maintaining a low profile outside the industry, many of the nation's accrediting agencies may find it jarring to be thrust suddenly into the political spotlight alongside DEI initiatives and critical race theory. But for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, it's nothing new; for more than two years, the agency has been fending off allegations of ideological influence and "wokeness" from lawmakers—some of whom have introduced legislation to limit its influence in their states.

University World News - May 6, 2023

Professors are victims as DeSantis' culture war hots up

"This is something we've seen among authoritarian governments not just in Hungary, but in Poland, in Brazil [under former president Jair Bolsonaro] and Russia and China. And now we are seeing them here in the US....It's a challenge to try to explain to Americans...this is something that can happen right here in the United States," Jeremy Young, PEN America, said.

"This is a culture war to create an enemy that we can put all our fears onto because the LGBTQ+ community is [perceived as being] weird. We represent something that's unfamiliar and it's easy to point at to distract people from looking at the real problems and that is eroding the educational opportunities of our students....And that's not how we support our students. And it's not how we build a strong competitive economy, despite what DeSantis thinks he's doing." Helene Gold, Librarian fired from New College.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 4th, 2023

[Text messages show New College alum acted as liaison between DeSantis' office and board](#)

Concerns have been raised about how the leadership change was handled, and whether it was coordinated behind the scenes, possibly with help from an intermediary, in way that was shielded from public view. State law says that public board members must conduct their business in the open, and can't coordinate actions out of public view....Trustee Eddie Speir, who was appointed by DeSantis, said he had "a lot of conversations" with Allen, who has a child who plays tennis at the Bradenton school founded by Speir. Allen initially asked him to keep their relationship secret, Speir said, and has been "trying" to act as an adviser.

Read More about Bob Allen: [The Trump-loving yacht lawyer who helped engineer DeSantis' New College takeover](#)

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 3rd, 2023

[New College fires librarian, second LGBTQ faculty member dismissed this year](#)

Helene Gold questioned New College officials' decision to terminate her after five years at the school, without notice. "Firing me three weeks before the end of the semester feels like a deliberate and targeted attack on our students who need support now more than ever.

Removing a key figure from the college's academic support team does not serve the college's or students' best interest and feels like it was intended to actively demoralize and destabilize our community."

[Listen/Read more from WMNF](#)

Chronicle of Higher Ed - May 2nd, 2023

[A Professor at New College of Florida Quits in Dramatic Fashion. Here's Why He Felt He Had to Go.](#)

Interview with Matthew Lepinski: I welcome robust debate with my fellow board members. But what we saw was not a robust debate. What we saw was a summary judgment that some of these files were deficient and that the board wouldn't be granting tenure to anyone this year due to current circumstances. And when I look at these five tenure cases, I don't see people who are doing left-wing activism on this campus. I see serious historians, professional musicians, bio and organic chemists. These are not politically charged topics. These are not professors who have put themselves in the middle of the culture war.

Business Insider - May 2nd, 2023

[Florida just ranked as the top state for education, amid DeSantis battles on curriculum, books, and college leadership](#)

As governor, DeSantis moved to strip diversity, equity, and inclusion programs from higher ed. He also replaced leaders at the New College of Florida.... These and other factors that have generated national headlines and resistance for DeSantis, such as book removals from school libraries or restrictions on how LGBTQ topics can be taught, weren't measured in the US News rankings. Instead, Florida's No. 1 ranking in higher education — in addition to its No. 1 ranking

in education overall — is thanks to its low tuition and debt, as well as high college-graduation rates.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 2, 2023

[New College of Florida to add softball, soccer, basketball in athletics expansion](#)

The addition of intercollegiate athletics to New College follows an influx of money from the Florida Legislature orchestrated by Gov. Ron DeSantis as part of his plan to transform the school toward a conservative, Hillsdale College model.

MSNBC: Alex Wagner Tonight - April 26, 2023

WATCH: [Professor walks out of meeting after DeSantis-picked board rejects tenure for professors](#)

DeSantis antagonism of New College exacerbates brain drain. Faculty representative on the Board of Trustees Matt Lepinski resigns in response to denial of faculty tenure, after more than 50 people spoke on their behalf.

Tampa Bay Times - April 26, 2023

[New College of Florida drama continues as trustees deny tenure for 5 faculty](#)

New College of Florida's board of trustees declined to grant tenure to five veteran faculty members on Wednesday, a controversial move that critics said stemmed from inappropriate interference from the Sarasota school's interim president, Richard Corcoran.

Florida's Voice - April 24, 2023

[New College of Florida expects enrollment boost after adding athletics department](#)

Corcoran noted the college's history of struggling enrollment rates and said he believes four new sports will bring at least 100 students. New Athletic Director and Baseball Coach hired from Trustee Speir's Christian sports-focused Inspiration Academy for a new \$150k salary describes himself as a servant leader.

Tampa Bay Times - Apr 19, 2023

[New College trustees asked to defer or deny tenure in new memo](#)

New College of Florida trustees should defer or outright deny tenure to five faculty members at their next meeting, Interim President Richard Corcoran said in a memo obtained by the Tampa Bay Times.

The Catalyst - April 19, 2023

[BOT Academic Affairs subcommittee discusses admissions policies and a "representative and diverse student body"](#)

The meeting included discussion of upcoming faculty tenure vote as well as admissions policy that 15% of students admitted can fall below requirements if they demonstrate excellence in another area.

Critical Times - April 2023

Corcoran's Pension Pay Day

There's been so much attention on the salary, but to really understand the full picture, the full benefit, you have to appreciate the impact that compensation package has on Corcoran's pension. The longer he holds interim role and the more pension he will earn: one year will result in an 85% increase in his pension, two years it goes up 171%, and three years up 229%.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - April 19

New College student enrollment "a little bit down" president tells board members

Corcoran seemed to be indicating that 100 freshman students are committed to the school out of a larger group, including 150 in the last few weeks, who were granted admission but haven't all committed. New College's communications department said 1,414 students have been admitted for next year, including 150 in recent weeks.

Academe Today - April 13, 2023

'Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion' Is Stripped Out of Florida's Higher-Ed Reform Bill

Florida's state senators edited out some of the most contentious provisions of a much-discussed higher-education bill... Lawmakers scrapped all references to "diversity, equity, and inclusion," eliminated the ability to subject professors to tenure review at any time or for any cause, and shelved language that would have given hiring authority to governing boards... In modifying the bill, Florida lawmakers signaled that some of DeSantis's most aggressive proposals on higher education may not be realized this year.

WUSF - April 12, 2023

New College of Florida officials announce the members of a presidential search committee

The 14-member board includes Sarasota County School Board Chair Bridget Ziegler and Sarasota County state Senator Fiona McFarland. New College Board of Trustees member Matthew Spalding will serve as Chair of the Presidential Search Committee. Spalding is a professor at Hillsdale College, a small private Christian college which Governor Ron DeSantis has said he wants to model New College after.

Newsweek - April 8, 2023

Ron DeSantis Called 'Fascist' by College Director in Resignation Letter

Aaron Hillegass, head of the Applied Data Science Master's Program, resigned, stating: "I quit my job at New College of Florida because it had become a tool of the far right, and I believed it would do damage to our nation. [...] Many people in Florida may disagree with my politics, but when enough smart, experienced people like me walk away, red states will have a difficult time creating a modern workforce. Even if you disagree with me, you should want me teaching at the university your grandchildren attend."

Tampa Bay Times - April 7, 2023

[New College urges 7 faculty members to stop seeking tenure as changes build](#)

In an unprecedented move, New College of Florida Interim President Richard Corcoran has asked seven faculty members to withdraw their applications for tenure ahead of the school's April board of trustees meeting... They are among many tenured faculty at Florida's public universities who say they face an increasing threat to their careers as Republican lawmakers push to erode their protections.

WUSF - Apr 5

[New College will offer scholarships to lure students](#)

As Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state leaders try to remake New College of Florida, the school is tapping into \$15 million from the Legislature to offer \$10,000 scholarships to prospective students. In an email last week directed to "friends with college-age students," John Stemberger, president of the Florida Family Policy Council, a non-profit conservative group, plugged the scholarships and touted New College as "the Hillsdale College of the southeast." State university system Chancellor Ray Rodrigues told lawmakers that the Sarasota school's trustees would have authority over how the money is spent.

WUSF - Apr 3

[Academic freedom is the focus of a Sarasota higher education summit](#)

As HB999 makes its way through the Florida Legislature would bring significant changes to the state's public colleges and universities and opponents say the measure poses a threat to academic freedom. Jeremy Young of PEN America, an organization that advocates for freedom of expression, spoke at an education summit hosted by faculty at New College of Florida in Sarasota on Saturday.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Apr 2

[Florida professors call for higher education protection at New College meeting](#)

Members of the New College of Florida chapter of United Florida Faculty gathered at the school on Saturday morning to call for academic freedom. UFF represents over 25,000 faculty at all 12 public Florida universities and has lobbied on behalf of professors to stop HB 999.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - March 31

[New College launches athletic department, names director and baseball coach](#)

...introducing intercollegiate athletics outside of existing intramural sports at the public honors school with a reputation for its academics. Jimenez was the president of baseball operations and athletic director at Inspiration Academy, a faith-based school in Bradenton founded by DeSantis-appointed trustee Eddie Speir.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - March 24, 2023

[Texts appear to show New College trustee coordinating motions to hire Corcoran and Galvano](#)

Text messages released Friday by New College of Florida appear to show new Trustee Matthew Spalding coordinating with individuals behind the scenes on the motions he made in January to move towards hiring Richard Corcoran as interim president and Bill Galvano as general counsel, including texting with Corcoran himself. The text messages were obtained by the Florida Center for Government Accountability, which has filed a lawsuit against New College to compel the release of public records.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - March 23, 2023

[GOP congressional aide and wife of state senator hired to lead New College foundation](#)

Sydney Gruters is the latest Republican insider to get a job at the Sarasota college or a supporting institution, raising more questions about whether political connections are trumping higher education qualifications in hiring.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - March 17, 2023

[New College: Richard Corcoran's call for continued donations falls flat with some alumni](#)

Several prominent New College donors and alumni responded critically to a letter sent last Friday from New College Interim President Richard Corcoran, asking the new president to listen to the campus community, retain the college's current curriculum model and cool down the heated rhetoric.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - March 13, 2023

[New College President Richard Corcoran fires diversity dean, hires former GOP operative](#)

New College of Florida Interim President Richard Corcoran recently fired the school's dean for diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives...despite a report suggesting the dean could be moved into an open position rather than being terminated...

Corcoran hired to oversee admissions a former Republican Party operative who belongs to the National Rifle Association and the conservative Heritage Foundation and once worked for an organization deemed an "anti-LGBTQ" hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - March 10, 2023

[New College could lose \\$29 million in donations after DeSantis' takeover, alum says](#)

Former New College of Florida Board of Trustees member Charlie Lenger who has spoken to a number of major donors about their giving plans since Gov. Ron DeSantis began transforming the school says 13 told her they are canceling more than \$29 million in planned contributions, a huge financial blow to the small Sarasota college.

Washington Post - March 10, 2023

[Ousted Florida college diversity leader: 'I am the first casualty'](#)

The top diversity officer at New College of Florida has been fired, as a newly appointed crop of conservative trustees delivers on its promise to root out diversity programming from the small liberal arts institution in Sarasota.

Interview with Yoleidy Rosario-Hernandez

Sarasota Herald Tribune - March 9, 2023

[New College president addresses future of student coursework and firing tenured faculty](#)

Read the full letter emailed to the campus community on March 7th claiming “he has no plans to fire tenured faculty and current students will be able to continue in the current, unorthodox academic system.” [Compare this to his Q&A with the Tribune from February 27th.](#)

MSNBC Alex Wagner Tonight March 7, 2023

[Chilling effect of DeSantis crusade against New College could backfire in brain drain](#)

Alex Wagner talks with some of the faculty at New College of Florida about how Ron DeSantis' campaign to impose right wing values on the school is having an effect on the school even in ways that are not explicitly addressed by new laws and rules.

Interviews with NCF Professors Queen Zabriskie and Chris Kottke

Washington Post - March 5, 2023

[Florida bills would ban gender studies, limit trans pronouns, erode tenure](#)

A raft of laws proposed by the legislature's GOP majority would transform how Florida educates children

The Chronicle of Higher Ed - March 3, 2023

[‘State-Mandated Censorship’: Florida Faculty Worry About Bill That Would Ban Certain Majors](#)

Interviews Amy Reid, Gender Studies program director at NCF. Faculty members in Florida are worried that their departments and academic freedom are at risk after lawmakers in the state proposed banning majors and minors in “Critical Race Theory, Gender Studies, or Intersectionality, or any derivative major or minor of these belief systems.”

MSNBC Alex Wagner Tonight March 2, 2023

[Reality of rich academic culture at New College defies DeSantis' belittling, smears](#)

Alex Wagner travels to Florida's New College to talk in person with students at the center of Governor Ron DeSantis' demagogic campaign against diversity and inclusion in education.

[New College students steadfast in defiance of DeSantis buzzwords and politicized agenda](#)

Alex Wagner talks with students at Florida's New College, who remain steadfast in the face of harsh criticism from Governor Ron DeSantis, refusing to be manipulated by the blizzard of buzzwords and political showmanship from DeSantis. “Here at New College we do not fear people being educated, we do not fear people learning about history, and above all we do not fear books.”

CNN February 28, 2023

[New College of Florida trustees vote to abolish DEI programs, even as students protest against conservative overhaul of school](#)

Watch: Clips from 2/28/23 BOT meeting and CNN interview with Professor Elizabeth Leininger

Sarasota Herald Tribune March 1, 2023

[New College of Florida board abolishes diversity office after emotional debate](#)

New College of Florida's Board of Trustees abolished the office handling diversity, equity and inclusion programs during a contentious and emotional meeting Tuesday that included testimony from students worried that a board reshaped by Gov. Ron DeSantis is making the school unwelcoming to minorities.

ABC7 Feb 28, 2023

[Church Leaders Speak Out Against New College Changes](#)

In the era of the budding civil rights movement, the church founded the school with the premise that all types of people would be welcome. "We've now reached a point where an entirely new governing board and an entirely new president are being put in by a Governor with the express purpose of undoing the DEI work this college is committed to." - Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President United Church of Christ.

Annika Fuller, sophomore at NCF: "The fact that they're trying to dismantle diversity, equity, and inclusion goes directly against Christianity, specifically the teachings of Jesus. Jesus wants to lift up the marginalized people."

New College Catalyst Feb 28

[Manhattan Institute turns its attention to New College: things to know about this conservative think tank](#)

The new BOT members bring powerful and wealthy connections with them. One example is Trustee Christopher Rufo, who is also a Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute. Reflections of the Manhattan Institute's priorities have already begun to reach New College.

Time Feb 25, 2023

[A Florida Education Bill Would Ban Gender Studies and Diversity Programs at Universities.](#)

Introduced by Republican Rep. Alex Andrade on Feb. 21, House Bill 999 would ban DEI initiatives (even privately funded); Make trustees responsible for hiring faculty and review tenure status; rewrite university mission statements; ban "any major or minor in Critical Race Theory, Gender Studies, or Intersectionality" and African-American studies departments could also be vulnerable.

Chronicle of Higher Ed Feb 24, 2023

[‘Never Seen Anything Like It’: New Bill Would Write DeSantis’s Higher-Ed Vision Into Law](#)

In recent months, Florida's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, has laid out a comprehensive vision that would place public higher education under extraordinary state control. A bill introduced this week would write that vision into law.

Sarasota Herald Tribune Feb 18, 2023

[New College faculty concerned about draining Foundation to pay president's \\$699,000 Salary](#)

The union representing New College of Florida's faculty is raising concerns about the big financial hit that the college's small philanthropic foundation will take under a compensation package approved for Interim President Richard Corcoran.

Washington Monthly Feb 15, 2023

[Why Does Ron DeSantis Want to "Fix" a High-Ranking College?](#)

New College, a small public liberal arts school the Florida governor wants to overhaul, already scores well on the Washington Monthly's college list—and U.S. News's, too.

NY Times Feb 14, 2023

[DeSantis's Latest Target: A Small College of 'Free Thinkers'](#)

Gov. Ron DeSantis's plan to transform New College of Florida into a beacon of conservatism has left students and faculty members at the tight-knit, progressive school reeling. Following the Feb 13 meeting when BOT more than doubled Interim President Corcoran's salary to \$699,000

Inside Higher Ed - Feb 2, 2022

[Florida Could Make Switching Accreditors Mandatory](#)

The bill under review also contains a clause allowing institutions to sue their accreditors if they are "negatively impacted by retaliatory action." That could scare off potential accrediting agencies. If passed ...the new bill would create major financial and logistical headaches for institutions, experts say.... Higher education institutions must be accredited by a federally recognized agency in order for their students to qualify for federal financial aid.

WUSF Feb 1, 2023

[Students and their supporters decry big changes coming to New College of Florida](#)

Following Jan 31 BOT meeting where board members voted to fire university president Patricia Okker and agreed to enter discussions with DeSantis ally and former Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran to serve as interim president.

Wall Street Journal Jan 31, 2023

[New College of Florida's President Fired Amid Shake-Up](#)

Earlier in the day, Gov. Ron DeSantis said he sought to defund diversity programs in Florida's higher-education system

Following Jan 31 BOT Meeting when President Okker's contract was terminated

The Guardian Jan 29, 2023

['Hostile takeover': the tiny Florida university targeted by Ron DeSantis](#)

Governor's latest shot in his war on woke is the shock appointment of rightwing trustees to progressive New College.

Following Jan 25 meetings with faculty, staff, and students called by Trustees Rufo & Speir

Washington Post Jan 23, 2023

[Will a small, quirky Florida college become 'DeSantis U'?](#)

The governor appointed six trustees to New College of Florida, rattling many on campus

The looming transformation expected from the new board members has set people on edge at New College, where anxious faculty, students and alumni see themselves as unwitting conscripts in a politicized battle over education that the governor is waging statewide.

Sarasota Herald Tribune Jan 6, 2023

[DeSantis seeks to transform Sarasota's New College with conservative board takeover](#)

Gov. Ron DeSantis began the process Friday of transforming Sarasota's New College of Florida into a more conservative institution, appointing six new board members, including conservative activist Christopher Rufo, a dean at conservative Hillsdale College and a senior fellow at The Claremont Institute, a right-wing think tank. "It is our hope that New College of Florida will become Florida's classical college, more along the lines of a Hillsdale of the south," Florida Education Commissioner Manny Diaz said in a statement.

More Articles:

<https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/education/2023-06-29/ex-new-college-trustee-launches-congressional-campaign>

Eddie speir launches congressional campaign

Adding CLT for SUS schools -

<https://www.highereddive.com/news/florida-university-system-seek-to-add-classics-test-as-admissions-qualifier/653725/>

Observer interview with Corcoran, Jono NCF Freedom quoted

June 13, 2023

<https://www.businessobserverfl.com/news/2023/jun/13/one-on-one-with-new-college-interim-president-richard-corcoran/>

May 2023

SRQ Magazine

Interview with Richard Corcoran

<https://www.srqmagazine.com/articles/1837/New-Boss-For-New-College>

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2023/6/8/2162143/-The-shocking-real-reason-DeSantis-targeted-New-College-is-foretelling-of-things-to-come>

Yet DeSantis is determined to spend millions transforming this successful Florida institution into a sham school catering to bigoted yokels.

claims Derek Black's history at the school and how that angered white supremacists is why DeSantis, pandering to Trump's base of hate groups, targeted the school:

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/education/2023/06/08/can-florida-credit-desantis-its-no-1-education-ranking-closer-look/>

A look at state education rankings under desantis

Vanity Fair - May 31, 2023

[“Smart People Are Falling for Stupid Lies”: How One Florida County Has Become Ground Zero for the Far-Right’s Education Blitz](#)

From board battles to book bans to “woke” audits, Republicans in Sarasota are waging a grassroots assault on “everything, everywhere, all at once,” says the county’s former school board chair.

<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2023/02/ron-desantis-new-college-florida>

<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2023/05/william-f-buckley-jr-right-wing-college-movement>

<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2023/05/florida-education-brain-drain-hitting-schools-hard>

Commencement

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/18/us/new-college-alternative-commencement-reaj/index.html>

<https://www.wfla.com/news/sarasota-county/new-college-of-florida-students-hold-alternative-commencement-in-protest-of-state-changes-to-school/>

“I think an event like this shows the state, shows New College that its students are willing to fight for what we believe in,” student organizer KC Casey said.

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/education/2023/05/18/new-college-of-florida-desantis-class-of-2023-alternative-commencement-graduation-sarasota/>

Speir

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/politics/2023/01/24/desantis-appointee-to-new-college-board-eddie-speir-blasts-woke/69837100007/>

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/politics/2023/05/10/new-college-of-florida-board-member-eddie-speir-rejected-by-senate/70205018007/>

May 15 Press Conference

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/politics/2023/05/15/florida-gov-ron-desantis-signs-diversity-equity-inclusion-bill-at-new-college-with-chris-rufo/70217794007/>

NY Mag - May 9, 2023

<https://nymag.com/intelligencer/article/desantis-florida-trump-education-politics.html>

Over the past three years, legislators in 28 states have passed at least 71 bills controlling what teachers and students can say and do at school. A wave of library purges, subject-matter restrictions, and potential legal threats against educators has followed.

Public Notice - May 8, 2023

The Republican war on higher education

What each of these bad ideas has in common is that they undercut public education and in the view of modern conservatives, that's a feature, not a bug. In Florida, Rufo has made clear he wants to defund public education at both the K-12 and post-secondary levels. And DeSantis wants to give out \$4 billion in K-12 vouchers so parents can flee "woke" public schools. Hillsdale College, besides being a fan favorite in the Clarence Thomas household, runs a network of right-wing K-12 charter schools. This is all part of a larger goal of shifting public tax dollars from institutions that welcome a diversity of thought and viewpoints to institutions that teach only what conservatives want taught. That's bad for professors, students, and democracy as a whole.

New Yorker about Hillsdale April 3 2023

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/04/10/the-christian-liberal-arts-school-at-the-heart-of-the-culture-wars>

APRIL 26 COVERAGE

MSNBC Alex Wagner https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdPd5a_xzvY

[Watch ABC7](#)

[Watch FOX 13](#)

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/shame-on-you-over-fiery-protests-floridas-new-college-trustees-deny-5-tenure-bids>

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/education/2023/04/26/new-college-of-florida-desantis-tenure-deny-corcoran-trustees/>

<https://www.mysuncoast.com/2023/04/26/five-new-college-professors-denied-tenure/>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/trustees-regents/2023/04/27/new-college-board-denies-tenure-5-professors>

<https://www.fox13news.com/news/new-college-board-votes-down-tenure-for-five-professors-following-student-staff-protests>

Spalding q &A

SHT - Jan 20

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/politics/2023/01/20/desantis-taps-hillsdale-dean-matt-hew-spalding-for-new-college-of-florida/69823440007/>

Tampa Bay Times April 12

[Florida bill targeting college diversity programs no longer mentions them](#)

Specific references to “diversity, equity and inclusion” were removed over concerns that could endanger accreditation of some courses and programs.

Seeking Rents - Jason Garcia - April 16, 2023

[Records show DeSantis wanted to make university president searches a secret](#)

DeSantis allies used the new law to install a politician as president of the University of Florida. And now lawmakers are advancing bills to hide even more of DeSantis' maneuverings from the public.

Tampa Bay Times - April 4, 2023

[New College of Florida culture shifts again by adding new sports](#)

It's the latest move for the Sarasota school that's being overhauled by Gov. Ron DeSantis and his allies.

Tampa Bay Times - Apr 2

New College of Florida seeks out students with scholarships, sports

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/education/2023/04/05/new-college-florida-seeks-out-students-with-scholarships-sports/>

LA Times - Apr 5

[Newsom heading to Florida to meet with students from college that DeSantis wants to take over](#)

Adding another layer to his rivalry with GOP Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, California Gov. Gavin Newsom is heading to Sarasota, Fla., on Wednesday to meet with students at an embattled college campus that has become a symbol of the national culture wars.

WUSF - Apr 6

[DeSantis' New College trustee appointments get the OK from a Senate committee](#)

Amid an effort by Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state leaders to shake up New College of Florida, a Senate committee on Wednesday supported the appointments of seven members to the school's Board of Trustees. It came amid questions from some Democrats about some of the appointees. They still need to be confirmed by the full Senate.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Apr 4

[New College offers scholarships to draw students](#)

AP News- Mar 30, 2023

[Desantis war on 'woke' colleges sparks fear among professors, students](#)

Professors at the New College of Florida are using personal email because they're afraid of being subpoenaed. Students are concerned, too. Some fear for their physical safety. Many worry their teachers will be fired en masse and their courses and books will be policed. It's increasingly hard to focus on their studies.

IMPACT ON FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Inside Higher Ed - Feb 3

[A Subtle Subterfuge, an Outrage or Both?](#)

Florida College System presidents signed a statement promising not to support any effort that "compels belief" in critical race theory on their campuses. That prompted a deluge of criticism and, in some quarters, a little sympathy.

Politico - March 24

[DeSantis' Culture Warrior: 'We Are Now Over the Walls'](#)

In Chris Rufo, the Florida governor has found a useful weapon for the multi-front culture war he hopes will launch his presidential run.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Feb 27

[Richard Corcoran Q&A: New College interim president outlines vision, defends salary](#)

Sarasota Herald Tribune - March 6, 2023

[As DeSantis, legislature weaponize diversity initiatives, many are enshrined in Florida law](#)

The Chronicle of Higher Ed - Jan 30

What's Happening in Florida

Since the New Year, ahead of the Florida legislature's next session, Gov. Ron DeSantis and his Republican allies have ramped up efforts to eradicate "woke" ideology from public colleges.

Feb 17, 2023

The New Republic

Christopher Rufo Claims a Degree from "Harvard." Umm... Not Quite

The activist who is now a leading education policy figure on the right actually matriculated at Harvard Extension School. There's a difference.

<https://newrepublic.com/article/170647/christopher-rufo-harvard-degree-misleading>

Fox News

February 28, 2023

New College Board of Trustees eliminate diversity office as new interim President gets an icy welcome

<https://www.fox4now.com/news/local-news/new-college-board-of-trustees-eliminate-diversity-office-as-new-interim-president-gets-an-icy-welcome>

The Bulwark

Jan 16

Ron DeSantis, Chris Rufo, and the College Anti-Woke Makeover

The Florida governor's plan to transform a liberal school turns it into a political kickball.

<https://www.thebulwark.com/ron-desantis-chris-rufo-and-the-college-anti-woke-makeover-florida/>

Washington Post

Zachary Dowdle Feb 15

In targeting the New College, DeSantis may have overplayed his hand

Selecting a university administrator with politics in mind has a precedent. It didn't go well.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by-history/2023/02/15/new-college-desantis/>

Inside Higher Education

Feb 1

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2023/02/01/desantis-puts-action-his-plan-end-woke-activism>

Daily Beast

Feb 21

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/woke-obsessed-desantis-took-aim-at-floridas-new-college-theyre-about-to-fight-back>

LA Times

Feb 5

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2023-02-05/florida-liberal-arts-college-gov-ron-desantis-wants-to-take-over>

Axios

Derek Black, former white nationalist transformed by NCF education

<https://www.axios.com/local/tampa-bay/2023/01/10/new-college-florida-desantis-derek-black>

Feb 17 Corcoran Salary compared to other FL School Presidents

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/local/2023/02/17/new-college-interim-richard-corcoran-salary-against-florida-schools/69908490007/>

Feb 27

Meet the Trump-loving yacht lawyer who helped engineer DeSantis' New College takeover
Lawyer Robert Allen graduated from Sarasota's New College in 1978. He has told other alumni that he was instrumental in recent changes at the college.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/local/sarasota/2023/02/27/trump-ron-desantis-robert-allen-led-new-college-makeover/69942836007/>

Feb 24

Coverage of walkout

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2023/02/24/new-college-of-florida-students-alumni-rally-against-overreach/69926930007/>

Sarasota Herald Tribune

Feb 22, 2023

Corcoran Approved by BOG

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/politics/2023/02/22/new-college-of-florida-interim-president-richard-corcorans-salary-debated-desantis/69931569007/>

Feb 23

Lawsuit accuses New College and Trustee Christopher Rufo of violating public records law
Sarasota attorney Andrea Mogensen filed the lawsuit in the 12th Judicial Circuit on behalf of the Florida Center for Government Accountability, which requested text messages and logs of all texts and phone calls made by Rufo between Jan. 6, when Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed him to the New College board, and Jan. 23.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/politics/2023/02/23/new-college-of-florida-and-trustee-christopher-rufo-target-of-florida-public-records-lawsuit-sarasota/69935589007/>

Jan 31

Who is Richard Corcoran?

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/education/2023/01/31/richard-corcoran-desantis-new-college-of-florida-president-patricia-okker/69859721007/>

Feb 15

Florida Legislature approves \$15 million for DeSantis' New College transformation plan

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/news/politics/2023/02/15/new-college-florida-gets-millions-from-legislature-for-governor-ron-desantis-conservative-makeover/69904730007/>

Chronicle of Higher Ed

Feb 24

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/never-seen-anything-like-it-new-bill-would-write-desantiss-higher-ed-vision-into-law>

The New Yorker

Feb 22

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-political-scene/what-is-ron-desantis-doing-to-floridas-public-liberal-arts-college>

The Guardian

Feb 5

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/feb/05/ron-desantis-war-on-woke-florida-higher-education-new-college>

Opinion

Florida Phoenix – October 14th, 2024

[Invitation to 'eugenicon' shows how far off the track New College has wandered](#)

"Welcoming white supremacists to campus is not good."

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 20th, 2024

[What does New College President Corcoran have in common with Ben Sasse? Too much.](#)

NCF Freedom Treasurer Kathleen Coty finds many unsettling connections between recently ousted UF President Ben Sasse and New College President Richard Corcoran.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 10th, 2024

[New College of Florida has mastered the art of self-promotion. Don't buy the hype.](#)

Felice Schulaner, a New College of Florida alumna who served as chair of both the New College Board of Trustees and the New College Foundation, argues that "any current achievements occurring at New College should be attributed to...[the faculty's] hard work and care for the students – and to the students who have shown the necessary dedication to their intellectual, emotional and physical health," not to the current administration.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – September 5th, 2024

[**New College of Florida President Richard Corcoran held a town hall. It did not go well.**](#)

“Corcoran's poor decision-making – and his ongoing refusal to practice transparency by explaining his decisions – will only increase the level of distrust among the alumni. It will also only increase the damage that is being done to New College of Florida.”

Tampa Bay Times – August 23rd, 2024

[**Why did New College really throw away all those books?**](#)

A conflicting series of stories mark a dark moment for Florida's embattled school.

MSNBC – August 20th, 2024

[**Why this Florida school literally threw LGBTQ-friendly books into a dumpster**](#)

“The public university, now run by right-wing culture warriors, is continuing a tradition of taking away books for the supposed good of the people.”

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 20th, 2024

[**New College of Florida's leaders want to tick off our community. They're doing a good job.**](#)

Carrie Seidman writes about the “slash-and-burn approach” of the new administration at New College, culminating in the disposal of hundreds of books from the Jane Bancroft Library and now-defunct Gender and Diversity Center.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 17th, 2024

[**New College of Florida book purge: A horror story of secrecy, ineptitude and stupidity**](#)

NCF Freedom President Jono Miller writes on the disaster that was the New College book purge.

Sarasota Herald Tribune Letters – June 14th, 2024

[**DeSantis' destruction of New College is hard to watch, accept**](#)

Tamara Solum, parent of NCF 2020 alumnus, writes: “Between the [conduct violation letters to recent graduates](#) and the [clear-cutting of the Bayfront](#), it is quite obvious that Corcoran is following the governor's orders to literally bulldoze everything good that New College once stood for.”

Sarasota Herald Tribune Letters – June 11th, 2024

[**'No accountability': Governor shows ignorance of New College's unique academic culture**](#)

A graduate of NCF class of 1977 defends New College against Desantis's statement that the school “was so much about ideology. You know, no accountability, no grades, none of this other stuff.”

Sarasota Herald Tribune Letters – June 7th, 2024

[**New College of Florida's 2024 graduation: A sad affair lacking in grace**](#)

Felice Schulaner, former chair of the Board of Trustees at New College, pushes for grace for the students who booed the speaker at NCF commencement: "Threatening students with revocation of their diplomas – or a refusal to release their transcripts – seems just plain cruel and not a fitting way to cap off their New College careers."

Sarasota Herald Tribune – June 1st, 2024

[New College's leaders are arrogant and incompetent. Punishing students won't change that.](#)

William Rosenberg, president of the Novo Collegian Alliance, decries NCF President Corcoran's threats to withhold degrees from students who booed the commencement speaker, Joe Ricketts. He writes: "This cruel and unusual threat seems to be Corcoran's response to being embarrassed when a prominent New College donor gave a commencement speech that wasn't well received by students – or even capable of being heard by the audience due to the college's own massive audio problems at the event."

Sarasota Herald Tribune – May 31st, 2024

[New College's ceremony was a joyful event. But then juvenile 'rebels' took away the joy.](#)

Robert Allen Jr. responds to the New College of Florida faculty's [May 29 guest column regarding the college's graduation.](#)

Sarasota Herald Tribune – May 30th, 2024

[FAA was right to reject proposed SRQ-New College land deal](#)

John Schussle, the former director of properties at the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, responds to the [May 27 guest column written by Rick Piccolo, the CEO of Sarasota Bradenton International Airport.](#)

Sarasota Herald Tribune – May 29th, 2024

[New College of Florida's students are being treated like political pawns. Again.](#)

NCF faculty members who attended the official 2024 commencement on May 17 set the record straight about the alleged disruption of the evening's ceremony during [a speech by Joe Ricketts.](#)

Sarasota Herald Tribune – April, 24th, 2024

[New College gave Richard Corcoran a \\$200,000 bonus. Here's how he can prove he deserves it.](#)

"Now more than ever, Corcoran would be wise to embrace a paraphrase of the immortal words uttered by [Dean Vernon Wormer](#)...: "Arrogant, haughty and high-handed is no image for a college president to project, son."

Florida Politics – April 12th, 2024

[Rodrigo Diaz: An open letter to the New College Foundation Board of Directors](#)

"It seems the Presidential Evaluation Standing Committee failed to take account of relevant and significant information in reaching its recommendation," writes Rodrigo Diaz in a letter to the NCF Foundation Board of Directors.

Chronicle of Higher Ed – March 13th, 2024

[Milton's Last Stand, in Florida](#)

Richard Utz sees curricular nostalgia at work in Stanley Fish's choice to teach Milton at the New College of Florida.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – March 8th, 2024

[New College must end secrecy over President Richard Corcoran's incentive pay](#)

"The issue of Corcoran's incentive compensation should be an opportunity to hold the equivalent of a campus-wide referendum on the first year of his leadership at New College. How the board handles this opportunity will say much about how it actually views its fiduciary duty to the honors college of Florida's State University System."

Your Observer – March 7th, 2024

[New College plan makes no sense for taxpayers](#)

New College of Florida President Richard Corcoran and the DeSantis board appointees have an ambitious plan. But when you analyze the economics, you can't justify the \$400M-plus cost to taxpayers.

Herald Tribune – March 2nd, 2024

[New College students, educators need to be supported. NCF Freedom is taking on that fight.](#)

Recently, the administration of New College distributed a press release implying that it has prevailed in a lawsuit filed against it by NCF Freedom since the suit has been "voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiffs." While this is technically true, it is important to clarify the significance of this outcome beyond the legalese and political spin.

Sarasota Herald Tribune Letters – February 21st, 2024

[One year later, New College's rebranding has produced tears, hostility and disruption](#)

"I'm a 1972 graduate of New College fighting against the untruths and cruelty of the new administration. I've talked with parents and students in tears at the treatment they've received from the new administration."

Sarasota Herald Tribune Letters – February 20th, 2024

[New College's secretive leaders must stop hiding - and start giving us real answers](#)

New College Alum Brian Cody lists a number of important issues that the New College administration have yet to address.

Sarasota Herald Tribune Letters – February 17th, 2024

[Homophobic jokes, extremist leaders: What's happening at New College is no laughing matter](#)

The author argues that "the idea is to troll the New College community in order to claim that we are the ones who are intolerant and close-minded."

Chronicle of Higher Education – February 15th, 2024

[Resist Outside Efforts to Pit Disciplines Against Each Other](#)

Former New College Professor Miriam Wallace “sound[s] the alarm about the way this effort to replace sociological study with a particular version of “history” seeks to pit academic fields against each other and mischaracterizes history along the way.”

New York Times Letters – February 8th, 2024

[Don't Cut Sociology](#)

Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Hamilton College, Dan Chambliss, writes: “Sociology often focuses attention on issues of inequality, race and gender — topics that Florida’s government would apparently prefer go unmentioned. Many college students, however, welcome the chance to discuss and learn about such issues of vital public and often personal relevance.”

Sarasota Herald Tribune – January 29th, 2024

[New College's 'Great Books' online program is more empty hype from political hucksters](#)

Author Philippe Koenig details the nefarious origin story of the new online degree program offered at New College starting in the Spring, funded by GOP mega-donor Joe Ricketts.

Sarasota Herald Tribune Letters – January 28th, 2024

[Like Russia, Florida represses sociology](#)

Sarah Hernandez, Professor of Sociology at New College and a plaintiff in our complaint against the state, writes about the similarities in repressing the study of Sociology in both Russia and the state of Florida.

Philadelphia Inquirer – January 23rd, 2024

[The folks DeSantis crushed on his road to nowhere](#)

Don't measure DeSantis' failure by the dollars he wasted, but by the many dreams he squashed.

Sarasota Herald Tribune — January 4th, 2024

[Drama at Harvard shows New College was only the start of DeSantis' master plan](#)

The president of Harvard University has resigned and a [New College trustee](#) is receiving credit for forcing her hand.

Sarasota Herald Tribune — January 3rd, 2024

[One year later, New College's hostile takeover remains appalling](#)

Author Herb Guggenheim reflects upon Gov. Ron DeSantis's hostile takeover of New College of Florida, which began in January 2023.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – December 29th, 2023

[How could New College get a positive review on diversity?](#)

It's remarkable that the [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges gave a clean bill of health](#) to New College's compliance with SACSCOC's accreditation standards.

Tampa Bay Times – December 16th, 2023

[Here's why we fear a dystopian future for Florida's universities](#)

It's time for all of us to say, "Enough." No more Newspeak. No more lies. No more censorship. No more indoctrination.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 25th, 2023

[Opinion: If this is what a New College trustee thinks of women then he needs to go](#)

Mike Anderson holds no punches in his Opinion piece on Trustee Mark Bauerlein.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 5th, 2023

[Richard Corcoran may be the president of New College, but Grace Keenan is its conscience](#)

From the first moment of the school's contentious transformation – which began several months ago when [DeSantis appointed six conservatives](#) to form a clear majority on the New College trustees board – through Corcoran's largely predetermined ascension to the presidency this week, Keenan has been a consistently inspirational figure.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – October 3rd, 2023

[Opinion: DeSantis' fight with media over New College is another black eye](#)

For decades, [New College](#) emitted sort of a hippie vibe from the 1960s, one that was anything but confrontational. These days, the school is back from the war angry, and therein lies the problem.

The New York Times – August 14th, 2023

[At a College Targeted by DeSantis, Gender Studies Is Out, Jocks Are In](#)

In two weeks, the new school year will begin at Florida's New College, the progressive public liberal arts school singled out by Gov. Ron DeSantis for cultural transformation. Returning students will find an institution that is increasingly unrecognizable.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 10th, 2023

[New College spitting incident deserves a 'sorry' - not a sentence](#)

The author argues that "the controversy involving Catherine "Libby" Harrity, the New College of Florida student charged with allegedly spitting at school Trustee Christopher Rufo, has always felt like one better resolved through public contrition than punitive action."

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 9th, 2023

[I'm a critic of New College's needless overhaul - and I won't 'shut up and move on'](#)

The author writes that "Former New College of Florida Board Trustee Robert Allen Jr. has outdone himself in his two recent guest columns, both in demonstrating a lack of civility in discourse and in being a provocateur."

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 6th, 2023

[We should not be 'totally good' with New College's loss of top faculty members](#)

Former New College President, Don O'Shea, explains why the loss of faculty members at New College is a tragedy, harming not only the school, but the entire system of higher education in Florida, and the state itself.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – August 2nd, 2023

[Ignore the eulogies for New College: It is alive and thriving.](#)

The author, James McDonald, an alum of NCF, argues that while "New College still faces many challenges... New College is resilient and adaptable. It will come out of its current transformation stronger and better equipped to survive and compete in today's higher education market. So put the eulogies away."

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 23rd, 2023

[What happens to New College in a post-DeSantis Florida?](#)

Sharon Landesman Ramey, a New College alum and former Foundation Board member, wonders what will come of New College when Desantis leaves his governorship, Corcoran realizes he is in over his head, and private investors descend on the New College property.

Daily Kos – July 19th, 2023

[DeSantis wants New College of Florida to be a conservative academic paradise - professors flee](#)

The author outlines the state of affairs at New College and in Florida higher education generally, pointing to the 'brain drain' at New College, and the millions of dollars that Desantis is now throwing at the school.

Chronicle of Higher Education – July 19th, 2023

[I Was President of Florida's New College. Then I Was Fired.](#)

Former New College President Patricia Okker writes about how to fight for academic freedom and prevent political meddling in higher education.

Sarasota Herald Tribune – July 16th, 2023

[New College's 'Freedom Institute' must walk its lofty talk](#)

James Unnever, a noted criminologist and educator of more than 40 years, dares Corcoran to hire him as a speaker at the New College Freedom Institute, demonstrating his commitment to 'the free market of ideas,' rather than 'indoctrinating students by canceling opposing views.'

Tampa Bay Times – July 15th, 2023

[Here's why we old graduates of New College don't trust what's going on](#)

Steve Jacobsen and Herb Guggenheim write in response to two columns by Robert Allen Jr., which appeared in the June 22 and July 8 editions of the Tampa Bay Times.

Tampa Bay Times – July 13th, 2023

[Why I gave up on New College and Florida and enrolled at Hampshire College](#)

Tampa Bay Times – July 8th, 2023

[New College faculty's 'censure' of trustees isn't even a thing](#)

Robert Allen Jr. takes issue with the NCF faculty's censure of the Board of Trustees, arguing that the faculty had no standing to censure, and should have issued a "resolution expressing their concerns" instead.

Steve Jacobson and Herb Guggenheim - Alumni

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 29th, 2023

[New College's overhaul is being driven by greed, arrogance and ignorance](#)

Response to Bob Allen's recent columns: The bottom line is this: New College is accepting students who some might consider less well-qualified – but in many cases it is turning out graduates of higher quality than those at the most selective institutions. Isn't that a better measure of a college's quality than the grade point averages and test scores of high school students? As for Allen's criticism that New College has never done well financially, we would note that for years the school was starved of funds by Florida's Republican governors and lawmakers.

Tressie McMillan Cottom - Contributor

NYT Opinion - June 27th, 2023

[What It Is Like to Teach in the Cross Hairs of Ron DeSantis](#)

What some people I spoke to cannot get over is that they are living and working at ground zero of what feels like a culture of repression from the McCarthy era while the public still thinks the culture war in higher education is about civility and ChatGPT.

Esther Barazzone - Alumna

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 15, 2023

[Academic freedom must be protected at New College of Florida](#)

Another response to Bob Allen's June 1st column in the Tribune: Of course, public institutions "belong" to the citizens of a state. The real issue, however, centers on whether these institutions have the proper governance structures and processes in place to best serve the interests of a state's citizens... I served nearly 25 years as the president of a private university. I served twice as a member of the New College Foundation board. I currently serve on the boards of two universities, one public and one private. And during all of these years of service, I have still yet to see what Allen has purportedly seen: faculties that "rule the roost."...it was wrong for him to suggest that the tenure process allows a faculty to push around a college's board of trustees.

Bob Allen - Alumnus, Presidential Search Committee Member

Tampa Bay Times - June 22, 2023

[Here's how Ron DeSantis saved New College of Florida from mediocrity](#)

Bob Allen writes that critics of changes at New College don't understand the pro's of Hillsdale College, and criticizes the school's drop in rankings since becoming a public institution. The [Sarasota Herald Tribune has reported](#) on his involvement in DeSantis's takeover of the New College Board

Bob also wrote along the same lines for the Sarasota Herald Tribune on June 22nd: [New College is changing for the better. It's time for the critics to shut up and move on](#)... So to

the critics – and particularly to the New College alumni and faculty members who assail the changes at the school as an attack on excellence – I say this: Shut up, already. You’ve done enough harm.

Liz Leininger - Faculty

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 20, 2023

[NCF board responds badly to faculty censure](#)

Following the memo calling the faculty censure “unfounded”, Leininger writes: Instead of seeking dialogue to discuss our concerns, the reply was unnecessarily combative, ignorant of well-documented and reported facts and full of willful misinterpretations of our concerns... My colleagues and I care about our students’ educational futures. The learning environment is threatened when trustees insult our students and colleagues, failing to balance their free speech with established principles of civil discourse. Our students’ learning environment will improve when the trustees act as true stewards.

Robin Williams - president of the Democratic Public Education Caucus of Manasota.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 18, 2023

[New College leaders botched new mascot process](#)

Student Board Trustee Grace Keenan, who said changing the official mascot “Null Set” deserved more input from New College students, and that a final decision should be delayed until the fall. To anyone with even a cursory knowledge of racial stereotypes, the new mascot should have set off alarms. It turns out the original student version of the mascot was very different in appearance and was unlikely to have raised any concerns. Yet Interim President Richard Corcoran and the New College Board of Trustees, which includes culture warrior Christopher Rufo among its members, supported and chose an altered mascot that depicts a tree that has been anthropomorphized to closely resemble an angry, threatening brown individual.

Chris Anderson - Columnist

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 16, 2023

[Sports at New College won't bring new students](#)

There is a large misconception that colleges with sports programs contain a special building just for printing money, but unless you are an NCAA Division I school with a football program like Florida, Notre Dame or Alabama, it doesn't work that way... This area's support of high school sports has noticeably dwindled over the years, and, yes, that includes football. And what about the State College of Florida basketball program? A few weeks ago, it was quietly announced on Twitter the program was shutting down.

Felice Schulaner - Alumna and Former BOT Chair

Sarasota Herald Tribune -

[New College Board of Trustees allowed politics to trump academic integrity](#)

The Former Board Chair disputes the points made by Bob Allen in his op ed [“New College trustees board deserves praise for refusing to be a rubber stamp for faculty,”](#) including the BOT’s Sunshine Law violations, denying faculty tenure, and his claims that faculty are

responsible for the school's failures: "But the fact is the issues New College faced in previous years were more attributable to underfunding than faculty overreach. Indeed, for years the DeSantis administration consistently vetoed budget requests by New College – yet the school continued to produce record numbers of graduates who went on to earn prestigious fellowships and spots at top graduate schools."

Bob Allen - Alumnus and member of Presidential Search Committee

Sarasota Herald Tribune - June 1, 2023

[New College trustees board deserves praise for refusing to be a rubber stamp for faculty](#)

Liberals have long dominated most public university and college boards in Florida, so they see nothing invidious when they naturally agree with each other. But when conservatives naturally agree with each other while making policies, liberals will suddenly and predictably proclaim that such decisions must have been reached solely through "collusion" – and must have been driven solely by "the lack of a moral compass."

Read the retort by local resident Michael Phelan: [Wrong to give platform to participant in New College takeover](#): Why on Earth would the Herald-Tribune publish an op-ed piece by Robert Allen Jr. regarding the hostile makeover of New College?

Amy Reid - NCF Professor of Gender Studies

Ms. Magazine - May 30, 2023

[The Florida Moms are Alright](#)

What's now unfolding at the New College of Florida in Sarasota is one of those intensely local David and Goliath stories with real consequences for the state and the country. The backdrop is the political push from the radical right to reshape public education—academic freedom, LGBTQ+ rights and free speech, be damned. But what deserves the real spotlight here, is the efforts of a scrappy group of parents—mostly moms—to protect their kids.

Rev. Dennis Kezar - Alumnus

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 31, 2023

[It's not too late for DeSantis to do what's right for New College](#)

If DeSantis is ambitious enough to lead an even more diverse people than in this state, it would be a remarkable sign of leadership for him to display a spirit more gracious than tolerance. What might be possible if we cherish our differences and seek to learn from minorities who disagree with us – as we were taught at New College?

Liz Leininger - Faculty

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 24, 2023

[Censure of New College trustees board is a call for better leadership](#)

Our statement stands as a historical record of the following: At this moment in Florida's history, we do not recognize those acting in bad faith as legitimate trustees.... This is not the recipe for a healthy university – or a healthy democracy. But if we cannot feel free to speak up now, we will bend to the authoritarian forces that are trying to hijack public education. We ask the members

of the New College of Florida Board of Trustees to act as true stewards of our institution. If they do not, we will know that their goal is not to steward New College and, by extension, public education. We will know that their goal is wreak destruction – starting at New College and ending at a campus near you.

Michelle Goldberg - Columnist

New York Times - May 22, 2023

[Ron DeSantis's Takeover of a Progressive College](#)

Listen: Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida is expected to enter the race for the Republican presidential nomination this week. DeSantis's vision for New College speaks volumes about his vision for America.

Carol Braginsky Davis - Alumna

David Z. Young - Alumnus

New York Times - May 9, 2023

[The Laments of Alumni of New College of Florida](#)

"I am heartbroken (not too strong a word) that New College of Florida will soon no longer be the one-of-a-kind and inspired educational experience that I and so many other students were privileged to have."

"New College challenges students to work at defining what kind of life they want to lead and become critical thinkers — open to ideas in the humanities, arts and sciences. It is a college of inclusion and equity for students and faculty whose lifestyle, religious beliefs and politics are diverse, reflecting those of the nation."

Kevin Unrath - Alumnus, Professional Librarian

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 5, 2023

[Firing of librarian is yet another irrational act by New College Board of Trustees](#)

It wasn't a surprise to hear of this decision by the New College trustees, a group that claims to want a return to a "classical education" – yet apparently without the leadership of a professional librarian to assist with acquiring and organizing the resources that such an education requires... No one who wants to be treated in a fair and respectful manner will be interested in working at New College of Florida.

Sharon Landesman Ramey - Alumna

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 2, 2023

[Set politics aside, advocate for NCF](#)

Gov. Ron DeSantis and his allies attacked New College with a tsunami of lies, hypocrisy, self-aggrandizement and bullying. They committed state funds to programs and new hires while defying state regulations. They denied tenure to deserving faculty and blatantly seek to cancel academic freedom....Florida now votes strongly Republican. Does this mean most Floridians want to destroy our higher education system?... Please, set aside extreme politics and effectively advocate for New College.

Herb Guggenheim - Alumnus

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 2, 2023

[Board is altering New College by decree](#)

The changes imposed on New College stem from a flimsy right-wing theory: These conservatives believe they can fashion a college that will produce conservative students who will unquestioningly adhere to their orthodoxies... The end result will be a mediocre school with little to distinguish it from other mediocre schools.

Michelle Goldberg - Columnist

New York Times - April 29, 2023

[This Is What the Right-Wing Takeover of a Progressive College Looks Like](#)

"They are turning a top-rated academic institution into a third-rate athletic facility," [parent Eliana Salzhauer] said.... For many, the board of trustees meeting was the clearest sign yet that this is the last semester of New College as they know it. The pivot point was the trustees' decision to override the typical tenure process.

Brian Cody - Alum, Former Trustee

Sarasota Herald Tribune - April 25, 2023

[Search committee chosen to stack votes](#)

It has been the norm for student government representatives to serve on Florida college presidential search committees.... Debra Jenks, the chair of the New College trustees board, did appoint a student to the search committee but that individual is not involved in student government. He is an intern for Sarasota Republican state Sen. Joe Gruters.

Nicolas Delon - Faculty

The Point - April 5, 2023

[The Test Case](#)

We have seven or eight tenure-track candidates coming up for tenure this year. Everyone has a positive recommendation for tenure. The next step is supposed to be the Board of Trustees, which in April will approve or deny tenure. Traditionally, the Board of Trustees just rubber-stamps the tenure based on the recommendations that are made. Now, recently, President Corcoran has met with the president of our union to recommend that the candidates withdraw their files before it's too late. My interpretation is that Corcoran suspects there's probably a non-negligible proportion of the trustees who want to make an example out of those people and deny them tenure.

Brian Rosenberg - Chronicle of Higher Ed

Chronicle of Higher Ed - April 6, 2023

[The Deafening Silence of Florida's College Presidents](#)

The only president of a public institution in the state who has attempted in any form to defend the work at her institution is Patricia Okker, formerly the leader of New College... Is it preferable to get less money for a college that remains faithful to its mission or more money for one that abandons it? Do you prefer the previous version of New College — cash-strapped but serving students well — or the emerging version, likely to be infused with more public funding in its race

to become what the Florida education commissioner Manny Diaz Jr. called the “Hillsdale of the South,” that is, a largely white and openly Christian institution with direct ties to Republican politics?

Sophia Brown - Student, Editor-in-Chief *The Catalyst*

CNN - March 28, 2023

[I chose New College because I didn't have to leave my identity at the campus door](#)

In fact, the diversity efforts proudly practiced at New College were inherent to a quality education. A student's academics are enriched when they are able to encounter a variety of people and viewpoints. Broadening our horizons is the point of pursuing higher education. Anyone who reframes these concepts as deceitful or who wields them as a weapon in a culture war that the New College community did not ask to participate in, will never serve the best interests of students.

Conor Friedersdorf - The Atlantic

The Atlantic - March 30, 2023

[Ron DeSantis Chose the Wrong College to Take Over](#)

Maybe there's a failing college out there where DEI bureaucrats are ruining everything and the key is to retake power from them. New College isn't it.

Aaron Hillegass - Director NCF Applied Data Science Master's Program, Alumnus

Tampa Bay Times - March 4, 2023

[In Florida and at New College, what we lose when we ignore stewardship and competence](#)

The erosion of competence starts at the top, but seldom stops until few people in an organization are worthy of the seat they sit in.

Rabbi Michael Rothbaum, Alumnus

The Nation - March 10, 2023

[Ron DeSantis Is Destroying Florida's New College Just Because He Can](#)

I hold out hope for a New College miracle. But, as of now, none of what I learned at New College is a match for the ugliness taking hold in too many American hearts and halls of power.

Deberati Biswas and Erik Wallenberg - Faculty

Teen Vogue - March 6, 2023

[New College of Florida: The Conservative Christian Takeover by Ron DeSantis. Chris Rufo](#)

In this op-ed, two New College professors blame the DeSantis administration for trying to force a conservative Christian model of education. “We are here to defend the freedom of students to learn in their chosen environment, with programs and classes that align with the school in which they enrolled. We are here to defend the freedom of faculty members to teach what we have spent lifetimes studying and were hired to help students understand. And we are here to defend the freedom of staffers to organize in support of the diversity, equity, and inclusion that stand as a central community agreement — one that we desperately need in this state and country.”

Dr. Glenn Whitehouse - Alum, Associate Dean FGCU

News Press.com - March 5, 2023

[New College was made the enemy in governor's culture war](#)

Students are pawns in a game whose only winners are politicians. The trustees' promise to remake the school into a real liberal arts college rings false, because the truth is New College has never stopped being a liberal arts college. How do I know? I went to New College years ago as did my wife, and our son graduated just last year.

Teri Hansen, CEO Barancik Foundation

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Feb 19, 2023

[Amid the uncertainty, one thing is certain: New College will continue to achieve](#)

We are confident that the new trustees will come to see the special nature of this institution. And we are hopeful that recent changes will not impede New College's place as an anchor institution in our community – or keep its amazing students and faculty from continuing the school's remarkable trajectory, creating leaders and visionaries who change the world around them.

Stephen Miles, former NCF Provost

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Feb 14, 2023

[Florida's universities have faced interference before](#)

It's worth remembering that DeSantis is not the first Florida politician to try to impose his will on our system of higher education

Barrett J Taylor

Inside Higher Ed - Feb 13, 2023

[Is Florida 'Wrecked'?](#)

In moving to undermine higher education's institutional independence, Florida is following a playbook we've seen before—but with unparalleled intensity.

Esther Barazzone, Alumna

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Feb 12, 2023

[New College's past is being distorted to fit today's political agendas](#)

As I watched the first meeting of the newly installed New College Board of Trustees on Jan. 31, I was angered and disgusted, to say the least, by the process and its outcomes.... And, shamefully, much of what took place was cynically justified by distorting the founding principles and history of New College of Florida itself.

LA Times - Feb 7

Carol Flint, alumna

[Ron DeSantis is wrecking a college to score political points. How shameful](#)

As a graduate of New College of Florida, I witnessed the recent board meeting in which Gov. Ron DeSantis' newly appointed trustees ignored community pleas to get to know the school before taking a wrecking ball to it.

Andrew Gothard

Inside Higher Ed - Feb 7, 2023

What Happens in Florida...

Governor DeSantis is leading an assault on the state's public higher education institutions.

...It is clear that Florida's colleges and universities are not broken. They will be, however, if the governor's long-term agenda to dismantle higher education is allowed to succeed.

Carrie Seidman, Columnist

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Feb 3, 2023

Inside the New College boardroom - an ungodly display of power and arrogance

...a dispassionate display of political overreach that might have been shocking were it not so similar to what took place last fall when new Sarasota County Public Schools board members, also endorsed by DeSantis, terminated the district superintendent at their first meeting. Apparently, this is what public education is going to look like under a governor who, by virtue of his election victory margin, feels entitled to pursue – to borrow from new Board Trustee Christopher Rufo's military vernacular – whatever shock and awe campaign will help pave his path to the White House.

Chris Anderson - Columnist

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Feb 2

Opinion: If New College turns to sports the school will be thrown for a loss

If Speir wants to know why this business model so often fails, all he has to do is look to his own board of directors. (Inspiration Academy)

Esther Barazzone, Alumna

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Jan 31, 2023

Make New College an even better school - not a totally different one

I know what dealing with a challenged institution means. And I know that dealing with a challenged institution does not mean what it appears to mean at New College at this moment.

Tamara Solum & Kari Solum (Parent & Alumna)

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Jan 30, 2023

New College gives every student a chance to thrive. Isn't that worth saving?

As a student with a disability, my daughter was able to thrive at New College because of its inclusivity and support. Her talents were recognized and supported with a personalized approach.

Gordon E. Michalson, Former President of New College of Florida

Tampa Bay Times - January 28th, 2023

I was president of New College, and here's what I think

Through its graduates, and often against great odds, New College has established an enviable record of national recognition, achievement, and success, which includes producing a host of

elected officials who — tellingly, perhaps — span the entire political spectrum. In short, a quality liberal arts and sciences education is simply not a partisan matter.

Michelle Roberts, Parent

Tallahassee Democrat - January 23rd, 2023

[My daughter found her perfect campus at New College of Florida and now DeSantis wants to destroy it](#)

As a parent finally watching their child thrive in New College's unique supportive academic environment, I cannot stand by silently and watch her future collapse unfold as collateral damage in DeSantis' race to the White House. If DeSantis "succeeds" here, then we have failed our children and your child's campus may be next.

Carrie Seidman, Columnist

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Jan 20, 2023

[New College 'makeover' would stifle a population contributing to our future](#)

I come from Michigan, and I know Hillsdale. It is, in every way, the antithesis of New College.

Eric D Nowak, Alumnus

Tampa Bay Times - January 19th, 2023

[I graduated from New College of Florida, and I have some thoughts](#)

We were not told what to think, only to think for ourselves. The beauty of it is that you get real creativity out of it, real original thought.

Charlene Lenger & Felipe Colon, former Trustees

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Jan 13, 2023

[A new New College? A message from two former trustees](#)

It is our hope that the conversation about the future of New College will be one focused on collaboration rather than conflict, and progress rather than politics.

Chris Anderson, Herald Tribune Columnist

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Jan 13, 2023

[Opinion: New College founding father would be appalled by the actions of Ron DeSantis](#)

Quotes Keith Berggren, son of NCF founder and professor Douglas Berggren

Michelle Goldberg

NY Times - January 9th, 2023

[DeSantis Allies Plot the Hostile Takeover of a Liberal College](#)

The fight over the future of New College is about more than just the fate of this small school in Sarasota. For DeSantis, it's part of a broader quest to crush any hint of progressivism in public education, a quest he'd likely take national if he ever became president. For Rufo, a reconstructed New College would serve as a model for conservatives to copy all over the country.

[Lincoln Diaz Balart](#) - 2020

Watch: Former Republican Congressman and NCF Alumnus speak about academic freedom at New College

State Senator Joe Gruters

Sarasota Herald Tribune - February 2nd, 2020

[**New College is a premier institution. Let's not break it.**](#)

Republican State Senator and former Florida Republican Party Chair Joe Gruters expounds on the value of New College during the threat of merger with FSU in 2020.

Other Opinion Pieces:

Jacob Ogles - SRQ Daily Editor

https://www.srqmagazine.com/srq-daily/2023-02-11/21165_What-to-Make-of-Richard-Corcoran

Gruters likes Corcoran.

<https://www.tampabay.com/opinion/2023/05/25/florida-university-classrooms-heres-what-students-are-free-not-learn-column/>

The critical question then becomes, how will DeSantis enforce these laws? That is, how can you police free speech? Diabolically, these laws deputize individuals to inform the appropriate authorities if, for some arbitrary reason, they felt “guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress” after being exposed to discussions about systemic racial disparities. As a result, these laws will create an army of collaborators/informants/sympathizers who will police our classrooms and corporations. In short, DeSantis has created an army of “feeling police” that will function to purge our corporations and schools from any discussion of systemic racial disparities.

In addition, these laws empower Florida’s government to punish corporations (for example, Disney) or schools that allegedly caused an individual to be “anguished.” These laws endow the government to fine corporations and to withhold support from Florida’s universities if they do not purge discussions of systemic racial disparities.

Bruce Zeitlin -

Sarasota Herald Tribune - May 5, 2023

[**New College: Transformational education**](#)

Are the governor and his allies afraid of New College? New College graduated Derek Black, considered at one time the heir apparent to the white nationalist movement. His transformation was amazing and shows the power of the education and friends he had at New College. New College’s teaching of critical thinking and the effectiveness of its classical education were well demonstrated and learned by Black.

Garin Hoover - Former Trustee

Sarasota Herald Tribune - April 23

[**A blueprint to make New College a true world-class school**](#)

New Name
Deferred Maintenance
Grades

Chris Anderson - Columnist
Sarasota Herald Tribune - April 21

[Don't be surprised when New College is renamed DeSantis University](#)

Thomas B. Edsall, Columnist
New York Times - March 8, 2023

[The Death Knell for Higher Education in Florida](#)

Over the past decade, a liberal faction within America's colleges and universities, corporate America and the media has promoted goals of diversity, equity and inclusion...

Now, in reaction, come the governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis, his allies in the state legislature and Republican politicians across America with a blunt-force counteragenda that uses the coercive power of government to impose its own speech code and ideology on education, including higher education, as well as on private businesses.

Sarasota Herald Tribune - Feb 17, 2023
Carrie Seidman, Columnist

What qualifies Richard Corcoran to make up to \$1 million at New College?

That means the former Florida Republican House speaker, education commissioner and Gov. Ron DeSantis ally stands to make \$1 million or more if he remains in the job the full 18 months. A portion of that amount will, of necessity, come from funds at the college's foundation – ironic given that the governor's rationale for his radical makeover of the board and the college itself is its financial deficit.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/columns/2023/02/17/carrie-seidman-corcoran-has-done-little-to-deserve-new-college-role/69913747007/>

Sarasota Herald Tribune
Kimberly W. Heiman, Alumna
Feb 10

We are New College - and we will stand together

My alma mater is under attack by a calculating man with his eyes on the presidency. He is chopping his way through Florida, turning it into an oasis for one societal sliver. New College of Florida is only his most recent target – a scapegoat for his “anti-woke” agenda.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/columns/your-voice/2023/02/10/we-may-not-keep-d-esantis-from-wrecking-new-college-but-we-will-try/69891405007/>

Sarasota Herald Tribune
Gordon E Michalson, Former NCF President
Feb 5

New College takeover is a chilling and ominous tale

As the meeting proceeded, I thought of Albert Camus' novel "The Plague," an ominous tale of the overwhelming of a French city by an inexorable plague going house to house killing whole families.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/columns/your-voice/2023/02/05/new-college-takeover-resembles-the-plot-of-a-chilling-novel/69866948007/>

Chronicle of Higher Ed

Brian Rosenberg Jan 11

The Fight for Florida's New College

Republicans' destructive chaos clashes with institutional inertia.

Ron DeSantis is the gubernatorial equivalent of the bully at the bus stop who identifies the frailest and most isolated child and kicks over his backpack. Having been (partly) thwarted by the courts and the faculty in his attempt to intimidate and reshape the mammoth University of Florida, he has opted instead to steal the lunch money from New College, by far the smallest four-year institution in the state's public system of higher education.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/the-fight-for-floridas-new-college>

Sarasota Herald Tribune

Lynne Buchanan, daughter of Douglas Berggren, NCF Founder & Professor

Jan 17

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/01/17/governors-conservative-trustees-will-harm-new-college-save-mission-sarasota/69809343007/>

Sarasota Herald Tribune

Justin P. West, Alumnus

Jan 16

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/letters/2023/01/16/new-college-education-makes-a-difference-sarasota-conservatives-desantis/69803768007/>

Sarasota Herald Tribune

Roger Brown, Opinion Editor for the Herald-Tribune Editorial Board

Jan 15

New College's legacy is on the line. Now's the time to protect it

Following Jan 6 Board Appointees Announcement

So, yes, DeSantis' new appointees likely have little interest in using their positions to help New College evolve in a responsible manner. But that can't be an excuse for those who do have New College's best interests at heart to ignore their responsibility to keep these new trustees accountable every step of the way going forward.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/editorials/2023/01/15/does-new-college-really-need-to-become-a-hillsdale-of-the-south/69804364007/>

Sarasota Herald Tribune

Roger Brown, Opinion Editor for the Herald-Tribune Editorial Board

The 'revolution' has begun at New College - and so have the nagging questions

Feb 1

About Jan 31 Board Meeting & Desantis' \$15 Million pledge

The nagging questions surrounding the motivation, purpose and, most of all, long-term effect of the academic coup at New College – an institution which admittedly does face some challenges – have only begun as well.

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/story/opinion/editorials/2023/02/01/the-revolution-at-new-college-has-begun-so-have-the-tough-questions-desantis-corcoran/69861193007/>

NCF Meeting Recordings

New College of Florida Board of Trustees information including upcoming meetings and agendas, and past meeting minutes and agendas, can be found here:

<https://www.ncf.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/>

New College Foundation Board of Directors information:

<https://www.ncf.edu/alumni/foundation/board-of-directors/>

Publicly Noticed NCF Meetings appear here:

<https://www.ncf.edu/public-notice/>

Meeting Recordings:

July 6th, Board of Trustees

[Watch Here](#)

July 5th, Presidential Search Committee

[Watch Here](#)

June 1st, Board of Trustees

[Watch Here](#)

May 17th, Presidential Search Committee

[Watch Here](#)

April 27th, Presidential Search Committee

[Watch Here](#)

April 26th, Board of Trustees

Updates to regulations approved. Presentations of alternative admissions options, 2023 accountability plan, and changing institutional accreditors. 5 qualified faculty are denied tenure by majority of BOT members without cause. Trustee professor Matthew Lepinski resigns. [Watch Here](#)

[Agenda and Materials](#)

February 28th, Board of Trustees

Interim President Corcoran's first board meeting. BOT voted to have Corcoran eliminate Office of Outreach and Inclusive Excellence, and create a school policy that prohibits spending money on any DEI efforts. [Watch Here](#)

February 21st, Special BOT Meeting

Approved updated contract for Richard Corcoran. [Watch Here](#)

February 13th, Special BOT Meeting

New College of Florida Board of Trustees reviewed and approved Richard Corcoran's contract and appointment as the interim president of the College. Upon Board of Governors approval (Feb 22) Corcoran would assume role on Feb 27. [Watch Here](#)

January 31st, Board of Trustees

Trustees put forth changes to abolish DEI; Termination of President Patricia Okker's contract; Resignation of chair by Mary Ruiz; Positing of Richard Corcoran as Interim President. [Watch Here](#)

Statements of Support for New College of Florida

New College of Florida Faculty

[Public Statement, February 10th, 2023](#)

[Faculty Letter to Interim President Corcoran, April 11th, 2023](#)

[Faculty Public Comment to BOT on Tenure Vote, April 26th, 2023](#)

[NCUFF Statement Following Tenure Vote, April 26th, 2023](#)

[Faculty Letter Responding to Corcoran Following Tenure Vote, April 28th, 2023](#)

[United Faculty of Florida \(UFF\)](#)

UFF [Statement on Academic Freedom](#)

[**United Church of Christ General Minister & President \(UCC GMP\)**](#)

[**American Association of University Professors \(AAUP\)**](#)

[Preliminary Report of the Special Committee on Academic Freedom in Florida - May 24, 2023](#)

[**American Anthropological Association**](#)

[**American Philosophical Association \(APA\) on Academic Freedom in Florida**](#)

[**American Council of Learned Societies \(ACLS\)**](#)

[**Freedom from Religion Foundation \(FFRF\)**](#)

[**Modern Language Association of America \(MLA\)**](#)

[**National Women's Studies Association \(NWSA\)**](#)

PEN America

[Fear that Unusual Directive on Tenure by Interim President of New College May Further Erode the College's Integrity \(April 21st, 2023\)](#)

[American Council on Education and PEN America Release Resource Guide To Help Higher Education Leaders Defend Academic Freedom \(February 24th, 2023\)](#)

[Proposed New Florida Law Would Place the "Most Draconian and Censorious" Restrictions on Higher Education in the Country \(February 24th, 2023\)](#)