University free speech policy raises concern

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The University’s free speech policy poses a threat to first amendment rights, says the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

FIU is deemed as having “yellow light” policies by the foundation. This means the University has “at least one ambiguous administrative abuse and arbitrary application.”

FIRE rates universities green, yellow or red light schools “clearly and substantially” restricting freedom of speech.

Student wanting to demonstrate must apply to the Vice President of Student Affairs for the right to do so, should the demonstration have the attract over 30 individuals.

“I feel like that infringes on a person’s right to protest. By adding bureaucratic red tape to the process, it hinders the goal of the movement,” said Ibrahim, a junior chemistry major.

Raul Reis, dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, said that the University’s free speech policy is meant to ensure campus safety.

“Universities are a great place for the exchange of ideas and that includes sometimes demonstrating and protesting. Universities have to set the example. But I understand the rationale if what [the University] is looking for is an organized way of preparing themselves,” said Reis.

Most of the policy is intended to prevent the disruption of classes or traffic, as well as to ensure the safety of demonstrators, students, faculty and staff.

“I understand having cops around to make sure everybody is safe, but this can create an environment in which people don’t want to protest. It’s just such a shame because all of the large societal changes that have occurred is because of protest,” Ibrahim said.

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University honors passing away of professor

Alexander Ramirez said his professor taught more than just art.

“He was more giving than many people would give him credit for. Whether it was advice on life or art in general, he was always available to help the best way possible,” said Ramirez, a senior sculpting major.

After nearly four decades of his artistic career, professor of art and art history Ralph Buckley passed away Friday, Oct. 9.

Buckley’s two sons, Finn and Thad Buckley, have established a scholarship specifically for University sculpting major students in his honor.

The motive is meant to enable aspiring young artists to follow their dreams in sculpture, which is Ralph Buckley’s strongest focus.

Those who were taught by Ralph Buckley describe him as a tall and grumpy old man who always wore a blue button-down shirt. However, according to Ramirez, he was honest and fair.

“He was always pushing me and everyone else to have complete work, and he did his best to not let anyone fall through the cracks with his students,” said Ramirez, a senior sculpting major.

Teresita Fernández, a prominent artist who is celebrated internationally for her works, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in sculpture as one of Ralph Buckley’s students.

The methods he used to teach his craft and art lives through his students and guides the next generation of artists, said Finn Buckley. He also said that discipline, accountability, respect and a strong work ethic were qualities Buckley instilled among his students.

Prima Martinez/The Beacon

Students hold the FIU flag high with pride at the Homecoming Parade which took off at Lot 3 and ended near the Football Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 24.
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

New proposal by Obama эксперимент made a significant effort in its education policy Saturday, calling for a cap on the amount of time students spend taking standardized tests. The move comes amid growing opposition from teachers and parents who assert that high-stakes testing has classroom-focused on rote preparation and has squelched creativity. The announcement breaks a pattern of more than a decade of efforts by the Obama and George W. Bush administrations to emphasize standardized tests as a primary way to hold schools and teachers accountable for what students learn.

The Beacon – Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Forums showcase effects of media

Images and Voices of Hope, a non-profit organization, is collaborating with the University to host an event about how media can be a force for good in the world. The event, styled as “The World,” is a one-day forum that showcases multimedia work through discussions with faculty about how media can create positive change. Restorative narrative embraces any storytelling or reporting that focuses less on tragedy and trauma and more on hope and resilience, said Amy Ellis, Marketing and New Media account manager. The event, sponsored by the School of Architecture, also aims to spread the message of restorative narrative by posting images, stories and media projects in social media. Participants are invited to post stories or pictures on social media of people who inspire them. The event will be composed of different activities. There will be a screening of the documentary, “Liberty Square Rising.” Liberty Square is a public housing apartment complex in Liberty City. Liberty City has been portrayed in the media through guns, shootings and violence. Students who attended the documentary, residents of Liberty City and media personalities will discuss the film following the screening. There will also be a panel of journalists discussing how media impacts communities. Digital media professor Moses Shumow is one of the featured hosts of the event. Shumow worked with his class on the project “Liberty Square Rising.”

According to the event’s press release, the documentary sheds light on the residents of the community, references its history and exposes how the media has covered the area over the years. “During the dialogue, it is expected that the residents will talk about how hard it is to live in a place so stigmatized by the media,” Ellis said. Students involved in the project will talk about the community in a more positive light, according to Ellis.

Nadege Green grew up in Liberty City and studied at Miami Northwestern High School. The native resident of an underprivileged neighborhood is a reporter for the Miami Herald and WLRN. Green will talk about her experiences in the community. “Green will bring an understanding of the day to day life,” Ellis said.

John Yearwood, Miami Herald World Editor, will talk about how “Liberty Square Rising” has a global impact. John Stuart, Medieval Editor, will talk about the notion that media is not only newspaper or television, but also art of all kinds.

The event will take place in the Graham Center Ballrooms Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public, however anyone who wants to participate should RSVP online. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

University art professor is remembered, honored

Being the youngest of three brothers, Ralph Buckley was born from a Slovenian-Polish background in Cleveland, Ohio on March 4, 1943. He had come from a long line of craftsmen who influenced his connection to art. When he graduated from high school, he directly pursued his interest in the arts at the Cleveland Institute of Art where he specialized in sculpture and painting.

While attending undergraduate school, he was supported by renting out a studio space two doors down from their home. He lived with his brother who was a painter and modeler for General Motors. His mother played a significant role through several of his artworks, such as a clotheshine piece he displayed during one of his exhibitions in the ’90s, according to Finn Buckley.

After completing his junior year in college, he was awarded a summer scholarship to study at the School of Painting and Sculpture in Skowhegan, Maine.

After graduating from the Cleveland Institute of Art, he accepted a position as assistant teacher at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. During his second semester at USC, he was given full leadership over the sculpture department. The department taught all levels ranging from freshman to graduate.

After USC, Ralph Buckley was given a fellowship from the Rhode Island School of Design to continue his work at the University of Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, where he received a Master of Fine Arts degree. Upon finalizing his education, he was offered a position to teach sculpture at Washington University in St. Louis.

During the seven years he had spent in St. Louis, he helped revitalize both the undergraduate and graduate programs. He specialized in hand wrought and forged aluminum elements, which gave the effect of realistic and life-sized pieces produced from flat sheets.

He explored the relationships between natural forms and organic ever-changing shapes of draped cloth. Aside from his skill in the world of artistry, he had an interest in culinary arts as well, according to Finn.

“He was a fantastic cook, and he did so for my mother every night until we moved out of the house,” said Finn.

Ralph Buckley’s works can be found at rfbuckley.com, and donations are being accepted by the University Foundation to support the R.F. Buckley Sculpture Scholarship.
of citizenship has concrete consequences. It “impairs… the right to health, to social security, to work and the right to education.”

Addressing the charge, Fernández claimed that the fears over human rights violations are based on “emotions” over Rafael Trujillo’s genocidal tendencies earlier in 1937. That year, Trujillo ordered the massacre of thousands of Haitian people residing near the border between the countries. The thirty-one years of his regime were punctuated with anti-blackness not just in Haiti, but of Afro-Dominican identity.

Fernández stated that the country has “overcome” this anti-black history and that current policies should not be seen in the light of those events. He blames the media’s representation of current citizenship policies for disturbing the situation.

“There is no immigrant crisis,” he said.

I find it confusing that Leonel Fernández can value history so much, and completely ignore the reverberations of more than thirty years of anti-blackness instilled by Trujillo. Those in the U.S. can tell from experience that racial tensions instilled by institutionalized racism do not disappear in a mere century or more.

To reiterate, as one brave student stated during the talk when given a microphone, the massacre happened less than eighty years ago. And, as we’re still waiting to see Haitian migrants were given the deadline to justify their legality of their parents or grandparents’ immigration, a Haitian man was lynched at a public plaza in the Dominican Republic.

Former president Fernández stated that there are some who are violently racist in the country but they do not represent the whole country.

Star Wars’ Multicultural cast sparks controversy

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A black man in space is less believable than an alien. It’s weird how an 8-foot hairy creature, small child or even multi-eyed organisms can be the main characters of Star Wars and no one would but an eye, but let a boy lead it all and of a sudden, that’s crazy talk.

Recently, “Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens” released a trailer that pointed to John Boyega’s portrayal of Finn as a main character of color—same people that are going to protest are the ones that are going to eat their words. Some offenders have casts white actors to play black guy lead it and all of a sudden, it’s “wow”?’

This is just a vocal minority screaming about nothing. Finn’s not a well-established character whose race or gender is being changed nor has he killed off a beloved character. He’s a new hero leading the franchise into the 21st century, where kids of other ethnicities can relate to someone that looks like them. George Lucas has a black wife and a biracial daughter. If the creator of the series is accepting of race, it’s sad that a portion of his fans would protest a movie on something so trivial.

These fans should be less worried about how a character looks and more about how the actual film will be. A cool looking character will not save a bad movie, like Darth Maul from “The Phantom Menace.”

These reactions should be louder when Hollywood casts white actors to play the few ethnic roles out there. Some offenders have been Ben Affleck as Tony Mendez in “Argo,” Emma Stone as a Pacific Islander in “ Aloha” and Jake Gyllenhaal as the “Prince of Persia.” The only thing Persian about Gyllenhaal in one thing is certain, it is that diversity doesn’t seem to be a problem, if there are any problems in the upcoming international versions will see similar treatment. Even bigger characters like Han Solo, Leia and Chewbacca do not get as much cover space as Finn does.

When some movies release posters overseas with a main character of color being swapped out, one thing is certain, it is that diversity doesn’t seem to be a problem, if there are any problems in the upcoming
With the Miami Book Fair International less than a month away, sunny South Florida has become the in spot to be for internationally renowned authors.

Thursday, Oct. 22, Books and Books, an independent bookstore in Coral Gables, hosted no other than Chelsea Clinton, the daughter of famous politicians Bill and Hillary Clinton. Chelsea Clinton was there to promote her new children's novel “It’s Your World: Get Informed, Get Inspired & Get Going!” which she wrote to inspire kids, teens and young adults to strive to make a difference in their own communities and abroad.

“I kept meeting kids who were really curious about the world and who really were so attentive to what was happening and wanted to know what they could do about it. So, I wrote this to help them learn more about issues they already knew about, learn about issues they didn’t know about, and share stories of kids who are doing amazing things so they could imagine themselves doing the same amazing things if they wanted,” Chelsea explained.

This event was a book signing only, but Chelsea was incredibly nice, talking with both children and adults and posing for pictures with them while holding her new book. The store was packed, with the line for signing weaving from one end of the building to the other. A diverse array of patrons attended the signing, from the very young to the young at heart, each excited to meet Chelsea. Those attending were given the opportunity to post on stickers how they will make a difference in the world. Many children enthusiastically took this challenge, with their promises including, I will … “recycle more,” “not litter,” “help the animals,” “save the whales,” “try to make others smile” and “change the world.”

American Horror Story has become one of the most popular and talked about shows, and for good reason. From the Murder House to last season’s Freak Show, each season is woven around the stories of different characters, an anthology series that constantly revamps itself while maintaining its roots. Viewers can catch up on seasons one through four, just in time to watch season five live.

Season one, known by fans as “Murder House,” centers around a young family that relocates to California following an issue of infidelity, in hopes of starting over and growing closer. It’s a whirlwind adventure that will leave viewers wondering what’s to come from beginning to end.

Season two, “Asylum,” revolves around a young woman’s journey through an insane asylum after being wrongly committed for being a lesbian. It’s a bit disappointing, especially after the action that’s packed into season one, but still worth a watch. It features one of Jessica Lange’s best performances of the series, including her wonderful rendition of the “Name Game” song.

Season three bounces back with a punch, giving the women of the show center stage. “Coven” follows the lives of young witches as they navigate the world and attempt to control their powers and emotions that control them. The addition of Angela Bassett to the cast spices things up, and adds an extra je ne sais quoi to the show.

Season four, “Freak Show,” is the latest on Netflix, and though I haven’t had the opportunity to dive into the show, I expect nothing less than greatness from the cast. It’s definitely worth losing a few days of productivity.
Chelsea Clinton visits book store for inspirational signing

PARADING ON THROUGH thought of meeting Chelsea Clinton and high school teacher, was excited at the can make a difference! world and focus on the notion that “You make others smile” and “change the world.” Many children enthusiastically took this challenge, with their promises including, I they will make a difference in the world. The store was packed, with the line for signing weaving from one end of the book. The opportunity to post on stickers how they are doing amazing things so they could imagine themselves doing the same amazing things for others. Dr. Giles, a gifted pianist, was zealous about the event and has both the technique and passion to play classical masterpieces as well as modern music.

Chelsea Clinton signs books for her readers Thursday, Oct. 22, at Books and Books.

Pianists with extraordinary talent presented at University

Dr. James Giles playing Schubert's Three Piano Pieces at the Steinway Piano Gallery at Coral Gables.

RAISA CHAUCA Contributing Writer life@fusm.com

FLU’s School of Music presented pianist Dr. James Giles at the Steinway Piano Gallery on Coral Gables on Sunday, Oct. 24, as part of the school’s South Florida Piano Masterworks series.

Last Sunday, Dr. James Giles delighted his audience with brilliant and energetic interpretations of Schubert’s Three Piano Pieces P. 946 and Líszt’s Sonata in b minor. He dedicated the last segment of his recital to less-known works by 20th century composers: Liebermann, Mompou, and Rachmaninoff. James Giles’ performance was a gift to FIU’s students and the Miami community. Dr. Giles, a gifted pianist who regularly performs in America, Europe and Asia, demonstrated he has both the technique and passion to play classical masterpieces as well as modern music.

Dr. Giles studied his art at some of the best schools of music in the country: Manhattan School of Music; Juilliard School; Eastman School of Music and at the Oberlin College. His extraordinary talent made him the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to study under the brilliant pianist, Lazar Berman, in Italy. As a student, he was awarded the prestigious William Petschek Scholarship at Juilliard and the Rudolf Serkin Award for outstanding student at the Oberlin College Conservatory. The pianist also received a fellowship grant and the Christel Award from the American Pianists Association. Dr. Giles has won first prizes in important competitions such as the New Orleans International Piano Competition.

For book lovers, sports fans, comic book, graphic novel enthusiasts and those who like to party in the literary world of noted authors, this year’s Miami Book Fair International promises to be the best ever!

There are many upcoming events leading to this literary street fair. The guest roster at Books and Books includes legendary NFL player, Ray Lewis, appearing at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, former Congressman Patrick Kennedy at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1 and for the fiction fans, Vampire Academy Series author, Richelle Mead, will be appearing at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15, all at the Books and Books Coral Gables store.

As for the Miami Book Fair International, watch for upcoming events which include famed anchor Tom Brokaw on November 18 (cost $15) and the free author event of Dav Pilkey, writer of the Captain Underpants Series, on Friday, Nov. 20, both at MDC Chapman Conference Center (Building Three, Second Floor, Room 3210) 300 NE Second Ave., Miami, FL.

Writer’s Events is a weekly column published on Wednesdays. To provide suggested events for Collin, email life@fusm.com.
The Beacon – 6
fsu@fiusm.com

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

FOOTBALL

FAR FROM FINISHED

Panthers dominate in Homecoming game win 41-12

Offensive lineman Daquane Wilkie and running back Alex Gardner at the game against Old Dominion on Oct. 24 at the Ocean Bank Field Arena.

JACK'S TAKES

There are few things in college football more exciting than the annual homecoming game. The stands are packed, the tailgate is electrifying and the parade fills everyone on campus with school spirit. The only way to make it better? Win the game - and that’s exactly what FIU did to celebrate homecoming 2015.

FIU saw a handful of records shattered on Saturday, Oct. 24, as sophomore quarterback and Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week, Alex McGough, led the Panthers (4-4, 2-2) to a 41-12 victory over the Old Dominion University Monarchs (3-4, 1-2). Despite ODU actually gaining more yards on offense than FIU, the final result of this game was never in doubt.

As well as being arguably the most efficient offensive player for the Panthers on Saturday night, McGough also broke quite a few records. McGough finished the game completing 31 of his 39 pass attempts with an incredible 390 yards and three touchdowns. Not only did McGough surpass his previous career high of 270 passing yards, he also moved past former FIU QB Jake Medlock for the second most passing yards in a single game in school history.

McGough’s 17 touchdown passes on the season is already a school record, passing Wesley Carroll’s previous high of 16. As his time here at FIU goes on, McGough continues to make a very strong argument that he will become the greatest quarterback in school history.

The Panthers' offense once again showed up in a major way, continuing to prove that they’re a significantly better group than they were a season ago. McGough and Smith were the obvious top contributors against ODU, but it was a team effort that enabled FIU to have yet another impressive scoring performance.

FIU’s defense allowed just 12 points to a new look Monarchs offense, with sophomore linebacker, Anthony Wint, and senior cornerback, Jeremiah McKinnon, once again being the main defensive playmakers. Wint led the Panthers with seven total tackles, while McKinnon intercepted his third pass of the season.

Even though they had barely any points to show for it, ODU actually had the advantage over FIU in total offense. The Monarchs had a ridiculous 297 yards on the ground and 498 total yards, led by sophomore Ray Lawry’s 161 yards on 22 carries. FIU will have to sure things up defensively moving forward, especially with some tough games coming up.

The Panthers’ next game is the one we’ve all been waiting for. On Saturday, Oct. 31 at 3:30 p.m., FIU will face the field and play spoiler to FIU’s bowl chances, so we’ll certainly be in an exciting rivalry matchup.

“Jake’s Takes” offers commentary on the University football team with predictions or recaps of games. For commentary, email Jacob at jacob.spikaw@fiusm.com.

VOLLEYBALL

Panthers defeat Florida Atlantic, break streak

STEFANO RIVERA
Contributing Writer

Winning at home and losing on the road has been a common theme for the women’s volleyball team throughout the season. In order for the Panthers to climb in the Conference USA standings, they would have to improve on their 1-3 conference record away from home.

On Friday, Oct. 23, the team did just that as they traveled to Boca Raton to face off against Florida Atlantic University. The Panthers defeated the Owls in five sets with a score of 15-25, 22-25, 25-16, 25-19 and 15-10 to give them their first conference road victory since Friday, Sept. 4 against University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The Panthers improved to 13-8 (7-3 in C-USA) and FAU fell to 15-6 (7-2 in C-USA). FIU is now 2-0 against the Owls this season. In the first set, the game was tied 10-10, but the Owls used a 15-5 run to take the first set. The Panther rallied well defensively, led by senior middle blocker, Gloria Levorin, who tallied three blocks.

The Owls took the second set once again to take a commanding 2-0 lead. However, the momentum changed in the third set. Down 2-0, the Panthers did not panic. Instead, they started the set off on an 8-1 run and never looked back as they won the third set. Senior outside hitter, Lucia Castro, and sophomore middle blocker, Jennifer Ene, helped lead the charge as they combined for 10 kills.

In the fourth set, junior middle blocker, Katie Hogan, contributed with four kills as the Panthers were able to tie the match up at 2-2. FIU was able to complete the comeback in the fifth set and sweep the season series against the Owls.

The Panthers became the first team to defeat the Owls at home this season. Coming into the game, FAU had a perfect record of 8-0 at home.

For the match, the team had 52 kills with only 18 errors for a final hitting percentage of .210. The Panthers also had 18 blocks, with a season high 13.5 blocks.

Castro led the team with 20 kills this match. This gave her 1,174 for her career and moved her up to fifth all-time, as she passed Olga Vergun, an ’09 alumni. Defensively, senior libero, Adriana McLamb, finished with 15 digs. McLamb also moved up on the all-time Panther record, as she moved up to tenth all-time with 822 digs. McLamb passed ’07 alumni Alyse Santisi in only her third season.

Ene and Hogan finished the match with 11 kills each and Levorin added with eight kills and eight blocks. Freshman setter, Dominique Dodd, finished with a career-high 27 assists.
Women lose third homecoming game

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It was homecoming at the Florida International University soccer stadium on Sunday and a day when such festivities for the team and the seniors was ruined by a 2-0 to Florida Atlantic.

Midfielder Alyssa Robinson fighting for the ball against the Florida Atlantic Owls on Sunday, Oct. 25 at the FIU Soccer Stadium.

Midfielder Courtney Phillips at the game against Florida Atlantic. The next game will take place at Charlotte to take on the 49ers on Friday, Oct. 30.

**FOOTBALL**

The Panther’s win against Old Dominion University on Saturday, Oct. 24 was a night to remember. The Panthers are now 3-0 at home and 4-4 overall (2-2 in C-USA). Records have been shattered during that night involving sophomore quarterback, Alex McGough, and junior tight end, Jonnu Smith.

McGough had a record breaking performance. He threw for 400 yards in a game in FIU history. He is now trailing DePaul McCull, who threw for 400 yards in 2008. “I put the ball where it needed to be,” McGough said at the press conference after the game.

Head coach, Ron Turner, was amazed on McGough’s performance saying that was the best he has ever seen since being at FIU. “He’s so much more comfortable in the pocket,” Turner said. “He always knows where everybody is. He knows why we’re calling something and how we’re trying to attack the coverage.”

Starting tight end, Jonnu Smith, broke his own record by finishing the game with 10 catches for 183 yards and two touchdowns. He surpassed former FIU player, Sam Smith, for most receiving yards in a game in FIU history. Sam Smith finished his career with 1383 receiving yards. Jonnu Smith however, currently has 1495 receiving yards in his career.

Panthers break school records

**PETE’S PICKS**

**PETER HOLLAND, JR.**

The Panthers hit the road and outplayed the Monarchs resulting to a 41-12 victory. The Panthers are now 3-0 at home and 4-4 overall (2-2 in C-USA). Records have been shattered during that night involving sophomore quarterback, Alex McGough, and junior tight end, Jonnu Smith.

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University free speech policy earns ‘yellow light’ rating

SPEECH, PAGE 1

Noel Cerulean also sees the reasonableness of the policy, but he thinks it might be restricting. “Applying to demonstrate a large-scale thing makes sense to me since it would need planning, but at the same time, I don’t think flash demonstrations are bad either,” said Cerulean, a junior dietetics and nutrition major.

Lorna Veraldi, SJMC professor and a New York State Bar lawyer, was concerned with the approval process of the University’s free speech policy. “When you create time, place or manner regulations, by and large the courts are going to insist that they are content-neutral,” said Veraldi. Content-neutral regulations do not limit any particular speech, but they regulate the circumstances under which the speech occurs.

Veraldi said she was glad to hear that the approval application for demonstration did not require organizations to reveal their purpose or intent.

The only reasons an application can be denied for a demonstration are if it would cause a disruption to normal University activity or previously planned programs, violate the rights of others or if another application for the same time, date and location had already been approved.

Veraldi said that the free speech policy could have a ‘chilling effect’ on student activists. “The need that we have to construct this policy in advance probably creates problems that otherwise might not exist. It sounds as if we’re trying to discourage people from expressive activities when, in fact, the motive for it might not exist at all,” Veraldi said.

Free speech zones include the fountain area in front of the Graham Center and the grassy area in front of Einstein Brother’s Bagels at the Modesto A. Maidaque Campus. The paved area north of Academic Building I and the grassy area north of the Wolffe University Center are free speech zones at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

These venues have hosted demonstrations ranging from incendiary anti-abortion groups, to cancer awareness memorial, to education programs regarding human trafficking. The venues are set up with this name that makes them sound like a positive thing, but I think the impetus behind them is to protect people who might hear messages or be inconvenienced in any way by hearing from people who might disagree with them,” said Veraldi.

The University claims to have the right, should there be a disruption, to have police require those in a demonstration show identification. “I don’t think [the police] can legally go into a demonstration and start asking everybody for their identification simply for being there,” said Veraldi.

The American Civil Liberties Union provides a guide on how to handle a situation where a person is asked to produce an id by police. “If you’re asked to turn over to the Union, a person is not required to show identification to police unless they have been stopped in their vehicle,” said Veraldi.

However, depending on the state, as is the case in Florida, a person having been properly detained must provide their name to a police officer when asked. Florida statutes also say that a person refusing to identify themselves is reason for alarm or immediate concern and could be unlawful.

Giving an officer your name, however, does not require that you give them information that could be used in the process of proving your identity. “That, I think, is a problem, because they have the right to ID everybody because I think that has a chilling effect on people’s willingness to take part in demonstrations if they think there might be repercussions just for being there,” Veraldi said.

Moreover, the wording of the policy, that the police have the right to require identification or disrupt a demonstration “in the event of a disruption” suggests that even if those demonstrating are peacefully gathered, disruptive hecklers could be removed.

“I thought police already get involved with disruptions anyway. I’ve seen it before,” Cerulean said. “Anything increasing police involvement gets me uncomfortable.”

Veraldi doesn’t believe that the policy was intended to be malicious or particularly limiting in expression, but that the policy might be unnecessary. “I’m concerned that it’s not required to be a yellow rated school, but we’re brought upon ourselves,” said Veraldi.

New credential rules may make it tougher to take dual credit courses

High school teachers may need to go back to school due to a change in the dual credit programs that are required to teach dual credit courses, and the new policy isn’t sitting well with some Monroe County School officials.

“We are currently auditing all of the credentials of our teachers to see how much it will affect us, but we predict that it will be a major effect on us,” said Jan Bergeson, director of secondary education at the Monroe County Community School Corp.

The change will go into effect in September 2017 and is due to a revision in an HLC Higher Learning Commission, a regional organization that determines accreditation for post-secondary schools in Indiana and 19 other states.

The HLC revised its standards to require that high school teachers of dual credit courses need a master’s degree in the subject area of the course they’re teaching, or those with a master’s that isn’t in the discipline must have at least 18 credit hours in the subject.

Previously, the HLC considered teachers with a master’s degree as qualified to teach dual credit courses and recommended, rather than required, a master’s in the specific discipline.

Dual credit courses are college-level classes students can take in high school. If students pass the course, they earn credits that are transferable to colleges and universities and can be used toward a post-secondary degree. In most cases, the dual credit course is free to high school students.

Why make the change? According to an HLC statement, the policy change is to ensure the dual credit course is just as tough as the college students take when they attend college.

"An expert faculty member is a critical element in ensuring that dual enrollment students have a college experience that is as rigorous as the college experience they would have had by taking the same class on campus from a college faculty member. A college or university must assure that faculty members teaching dual credit courses hold the same minimal qualifications as the faculty teaching on its own campus,” the announcement stated.

Local educators, however, don’t necessarily buy the idea that a master’s in the discipline will make the class tougher for the teacher more qualified to teach the course.

“I think it’s a total fallacy if they think they’re going to improve the teaching level. Our teachers are very strong,” Bergeson said.

From Edgewood High School principal Dirk Ackerman’s point of view, the change doesn’t necessarily ensure rigor and doesn’t take the experience of high school teachers into account.

Ackerman said this decision thinking that they’ve set a higher standard for students by allowing college teaching assistants (graduate students earning a master’s or doctorate) to teach some of these courses as opposed to seasoned high school teachers.”

“There have to be other ways for teachers to show their competence to be able to teach these college-level classes, and that’s what I hope the compromise is. It’s not that I don’t respect rigor and the integrity of the classes,” Bergeson isn’t convinced either that the HLC changed its requirements to make the dual credit courses more rigorous.

“Students achieve as well or better than college kids taking the same course,” he said. “I don’t believe that’s why they’ve done it.”