

obligatory playlist

HEAD LIKE A HOLE - NINE INCH NAILS
LIGHTS GO OUT - NEW MODEL ARMY
TAKE IT TO YOUR GRAVE - URBAN HEAT
SIGN OF THE TIMES - MIAMI HORROR
PLEASE DON'T STEP ON MY RAINBOW - THE CLEANERS FROM VENUS
BLUE MONDAY - NEW ORDER (OK, I'LL ADMIT IT: THE COVER BY ORGY IS CLOSER TO THE VIBE RIGHT NOW)
SHOT BY BOTH SIDES - MAGAZINE
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER - UNTO OTHERS
CASSANDRA - THEATRE OF TRAGEDY
SARABAND - CORPUS DELICTI
WALKING ON MY GRAVE - DEAD MOON
GOD'S GONNA CUT YOU DOWN - JOHNNY CASH
NOBODY WANTS TO DIE A MARTYR - DEAD ON A SUNDAY
DARK TIMES - ROSETTA STONE
THE TIPPING POINT - TEARS FOR FEARS
A FAILURE OF IMAGINATION - SEEMING

contact

- YEAH, STILL A NO.
- IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY, JUST SAY IT!
- ...PREFERABLY AT THE COMMONS AUDITORIUM ON DECEMBER 10.
- OR MAKE A ZINE OR LEAVE A NOTE WHERE YOU FOUND THIS OR SOMETHING. YOU'LL PROBABLY SUMMON ME EVENTUALLY.
- MAYBE.
- LOL.



do you see this shit argos:

a memo from desmortes & co.

Meanwhile, there's Zack Smith, the Presidential Search Committee Chair...

- a man who has a history of total fucking lack of transparency on-record both here and at PSC
- (up to and including **edited meeting minutes...with comments he made and got rightful criticism about conveniently "smoothed out"...**)
- He also *declined to comment on the process and on the applicants back in November*
 - <https://archive.is/1suwY>
 - <https://archive.is/Cvhqs>

84 applicants and you go for *the guy who thinks sociology is some sort of bogeyman waiting under his bed?*



...And not a word to the students beforehand?

- "Students should therefore learn about America's...roots in the broader Western and Judeo-Christian traditions."
 - For something so "great," that's a pretty small section of roots.
 - Just those? Nothing else?
 - Look, not opposed to learning about "America's roots." But to say that and specify nothing else, and then to follow it up with "students should study the best that has been thought and said..."
 - So you want to shelter entire future generations from the big scary world?
 - Right. That's always worked out.
 - Or maybe you just want an endless Western Civ circlejerk?
 - No, seriously.
 - This sounds smug and masturbatory.
 - You can think you're special if you want.
 - You can emphasise your favoured corner of the planet.
 - But this kind of limited exposure isn't really "free"ing anything.

Okay, okay. I'm done. No more. You're welcome.

Very normal words, there, Heritage.
Sucks about the authoritarian
bullshit.

Contents

- Regarding “The Phoenix Declaration,” which is full of bullshit
- The latest Board of Trustees bullshit; regarding Manny Diaz, Jr. as the sole finalist in UWF’s Presidential Search, surprising absolutely fucking nobody (but disappointing anyone on campus with a brain)

To Whom It May Concern

My silence cannot be bought. It can only be earned.

To earn my silence...temporarily:

- If Diaz resigns, steps down, or is removed from office, I will stop making these.
- If Smith or Kissel leave, I might consider a hiatus. But only maybe, and not a long one.

...Who would put their name on this thing?

Drafting Committee:

14 members --- 1 of whom is Adam Kissel. Yeah, the Board one.

Institutional Signatories:

11 conservative organisations and think tanks... and then our State of Florida’s Board of Education.

Great look, guys. Thanks.

Public Officials:

11 (presumably signatories as well) --- oh, look, fancy seeing you listed here, Manny Diaz, Jr.

Individual Signatories:

Right about 48 total. Not much to see, it’s just randoms, right?

I mean, Scott Yenor is there, too, but surely that doesn’t mean anything.

Right...?

Either they really do just move in herds, or we’re in some shit-ass company right now. My bets are on the latter.

Because 2: If they *won’t* reconsider, we can make it *really fucking annoying not to*.

- No transparency?
- A major announcement like this right at the start of a newly-extended holiday week right before finals (seriously, guys)?
- Honestly, even if Diaz was indeed the only qualified applicant, I’d still insist upon doing better for these alone.
- So it really sucks that he’s probably not even that!
- And if *nothing* else, this reveals just how weird it is that Boards of Trustees can have so much power over institutions like ours.

If they’re going to “get away with” this, we’ll just have to make it one *hell* of a headache.
You want a *\$1.2mil salary*?
You better work, bitch.

From

<https://uwf.edu/offices/board-of-trustees/presidential-search/communications/>

Communications

UWF Presidential Search announcements and updates.

November 22, 2025

Manny Diaz Jr. named the sole finalist for University of West Florida President.

August 22, 2025

Message from the Chair: Presidential Search Committee Formation. UWF begins presidential search, announces search committee.

July 9, 2025

Incoming UWF Interim President Manny Diaz Jr. to begin Monday.

May 27, 2025

Manny Diaz Jr. named interim University of West Florida president.

May 20, 2025

A Legacy of Growth, Excellence and Innovation: UWF President Martha D. Saunders Announces Departure.



This is the entire timeline on UWF's website for communications in the "presidential 'search'".

As you can see, there's absolutely fuckall nothing from August to November, and they decided to *announce Diaz as the "sole finalist" on the weekend immediately prior to the brand-spanking-new week-long break*. Total coincidence, probably.

We have some options.

1: We could try to get them to reconsider.
<https://news.uwf.edu/uwf-begins-presidential-search-announces-search-committee>
"The UWF Presidential Search Committee members represent UWF faculty and students, alumni, community and military, as well as the Board of Trustees and Florida's State University System Board of Governors leadership."

Except they did not fucking represent us, did they?
Almost goes without saying at this point, but in that case, why fucking claim to?

You probably got this email recently.

Wednesday, December 10, 2025. 12:15-1:45 PM. (Apparently, "immediately prior" means from 11 AM to 12 PM.)

Commons Auditorium. Building 22. Room 100.



UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA
Presidential Search

The University of West Florida will host an open public forum with Presidential Search Finalist Manny Diaz Jr. on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. in the UWF Commons Auditorium. This forum is open to the campus community and the general public and will be livestreamed.

An additional session with UWF's extended cabinet will take place immediately prior to the public forum. While this session is designed for extended cabinet members, it is an open meeting and members of the campus community and public are welcome to attend.

Will they respect us or listen to us? Maybe not.
But do we basically have a duty to be annoying as shit about it in the meantime? Yeah.

In case you missed it, here's the "Phoenix Declaration":
<https://archive.is/Vnz6x>. It's the latest drivel from the Heritage Foundation, and it's full of gibberish that seems at first glance uncontroversial...until--
Okay, yeah, you caught me. That's bullshit, nothing is uncontroversial, and even at face value, this thing is still pretty ugly. Fun highlights incoming.
Hope you're ready.

"America's system of self-government is predicated upon an informed and virtuous citizenry. To protect their rights and freedoms, and to fulfill their civic duties, citizens must first know what they are and what America stands for."

- ... Wait. Is the "Phoenix Declaration" implying here that citizenship, rights, and self-governance are predicated "first" on consuming Heritage Fnd. propaganda?
- They can't seriously mean that *this* is our alternative to the so-called "ideological fads" mentioned later in the document.
- Maybe it's not that deep... (it's still creepy)

"Schools should help students achieve their full potential, going as far and as fast as their talents will take them."

- "As far and as fast"...?
- Their "talents"?
- Are we to assume that students will invariably want this?
- Or are we just okay with pushing young people indefinitely...?
- Aren't young people in this country already kind of --- almost infamously --- burnt out and miserable?
- Are we not going to do something about that first?
- Sure.
- Yeah, no, that's fine.
- Just push THE KIDS harder.
- That'll fix everything.
- ??????????????

MANNY DIAZ, JR. (the horror persists)

- Manny Diaz Named Sole Finalist for UWF President: <https://archive.is/MZ7zi>
- See how this was announced right at the start of the break? Interesting, right?
- The "Presidential Search Committee" included no fewer than five (5) of our new Trustees, so they controlled $\frac{1}{3}$ of the search entirely!
- While making Board meetings/etc. intentionally inaccessible!
 - No hate to y'all, Trustee Bennett & Trustee Riddell.
 - Sorry you had to deal with those DeSantian Bloc-heads.
- This is about Moya, Ross, and Smith.
- As mentioned: DeSantian Bloc-heads.
- They've been voting as a bloc --- and doing some weeeeird, skeevy nonsense, like supposedly "unanimous" motions, on BOT minute drafts before they could've been taken and attended to accurately --- since they were appointed.
- Zack Smith in particular also loves doing this at PSC, apparently!: <https://archive.is/Cvhqs>

A reminder, if you will, that those three names share these in common:

- Connected right-wing political actors
- Connected right-wing political actors who really enjoy shitting on higher education
- Connected right-wing political actors who really enjoy shitting on higher education and also showing up at our school in Florida's ballsack (how glamorous!) out of fuckall nowhere

"A **central purpose of education** is to transmit humanity's accumulated knowledge and wisdom, as well as our nation's particular culture and heritage, to the next generation. A **civilization survives only** if it **intentionally transmits** its history, traditions, and **values**—including its yet unrealized aspirations—to the next generation. True progress comes only by building on what has been learned and achieved in the past. Students should therefore learn about America's founding principles and roots in the broader Western and Judeo-Christian traditions. Students should study the best that has been thought and said, engaging in the great conversation among the competing viewpoints that comprise our intellectual heritage, so that they freely make the best views their own."

- "A central purpose of education is to transmit humanity's accumulated knowledge and wisdom" = ...yeah! That could sum a good deal of it up, sure!
- "...as well as our nation's particular culture and heritage, to the next generation." = ...okay, I could do without all that, personally, but that's me, I don't expect any different!---
- "A civilization survives only if it intentionally transmits its history, traditions, and values—including its yet unrealized aspirations—to the next generation." = ...wait. What?
 - Why does this need the life-or-death framing, exactly?
 - "GUYS, WE HAVE TO DISTRIBUTE PROPAGANDA IN SCHOOLS OR THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY WILL SHREEEDDDDD!"...
 - ...You literally sound like this.

Remember in 'Cogitemus Dum Adhuc Possumus' when I specifically pointed these guys out and said that they were going to make education even worse?

Have I ever mentioned that I actually hate being right? I would've loved to be totally tinfoil-hat about all this. I would've loved to find out that I'm just a totally hysterical drama king[?].

Anyways, identity reveal:



~~I HATE PREDICTING THE FALL OF TROY~~

~~I HATE PREDICTING THE FALL OF TROY~~

~~I HATE PREDICTING THE FALL OF TROY~~

For, you see...

FL BOG & Sunshine Laws technically only require public disclosure of finalists. So, if the Search Committee announce a "sole finalist"... they can check that box right off and cease to give a shit about public *anything*!

It's strange as fuck to hold off on disclosing anything until there's only one "sole finalist." It's an opaque as shit choice. Which is to say, yeah, hey, that's an active, intentional choice. They could've made literally any other choice.

About the whole process. Not even just the selection. *The whole process.*

So this is a choice that the BOT have made, knowing damn well that we have absolutely zero representation or say --- with them in their position, *using their power the way they do* --- anyways.

That "search" was so beyond "rigged." It wasn't even "fake." They didn't even try to pretend.

Which is to say: They are so cowardly that they can't handle so much as "input" from the public.

From us.

"Presidential" my ass.

We obviously can't just let the State of Florida or the Heritage Foundation be the ones to *redefine* the parameters of "*objective reality*" itself.

The good news is that DeSantian education policy remains relatively unpopular:

- "Poll: Majorities oppose Ron DeSantis-backed 'Stop WOKE' and parental rights laws": <https://archive.is/W5097>
- "Ron DeSantis Is Doubling Down On His Education Crusade. Will It Work With GOP Voters In 2024?": <https://archive.is/5iDr2>
- "Survey: 1 In 8 Florida Incoming Freshmen Plan To Flee DeSantis's Education Policies": <https://archive.is/DU4G4>
- "Overwhelming Majority of Mom, Women Voters Reject DeSantis Agenda, New National Survey Finds": <https://archive.is/aVnUo>

You know who else is unpopular?

- Hey, no. Nuh uh.
- I respect people's mothers.
- I'd never make the style of joke you're probably thinking about right now, even in a little zine like this.
- Hell nah.
- I'm talking about that sicko, my arch-nemesis (that's a lie, sorry)...

MANNY DIAZ, JR.