### Faculty Handbook 1.1.1

### 1.1.1 Goals and Mission of New College

New College of Florida prepares intellectually curious students for lives of great achievement. It offers a liberal arts education of the highest quality in the context of a small, residential public honors college with a distinctive academic program which develops the student's intellectual and personal potential as fully as possible; encourages the discovery of new knowledge and values while providing opportunities to acquire established knowledge and values; and fosters the individual's effective relationship with society.1

**Commentary on Mission Statement, Including Guiding Principles**2

As a member of the State University System of Florida, New College of Florida, the 4-year residential liberal arts honors college of the State of Florida, preserves its distinctive mission as a residential liberal arts honors college. To maintain this mission, New College of Florida has the following goals:

* To provide a quality education to students of high ability who, because of their ability, deserve a program of study that is both demanding and stimulating.
* To engage in educational reform by combining educational innovation with educational excellence.
* To provide programs of study that allows students to design their educational experience as much as possible in accordance with their individual interests, values, and abilities.
* To challenge students not only to master existing bodies of knowledge but also to extend the frontiers of knowledge through original research.3

New College pursues these goals through highly selective admissions, an individualized and intensive "academic contract" curriculum, frequent use of individual and small -group instruction, an emphasis on student/faculty collaboration, a required senior thesis, and innovative approaches to the modes of teaching and learning.4

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1 As approved by the NCF BOT on January 3, 2014.

2 As approved by the NCF BOT on March 1, 2008.

3 As described in Florida Statutes 240.2011 & Florida Legislature 2001 SB 1162, Section 39 and

Florida Statutes 1004.32.  
4 As endorsed by New College Faculty, fall 2000.

These practices fulfill the state-mandated Academic Learning Compact of clear goals in communication skills, content knowledge, and critical and creative thinking.

In particular, the College since its inception has subscribed to and attempted to foster the following Founding Principles:

* *Each student is responsible in the last analysis for their education.*
* *The best education demands a joint search for learning by exciting instructors*

*and able* *students.*

* *Students' progress should be based on demonstrated competence and real*

*mastery rather than on the accumulation of credits and grades.*

* *Students should have from the outset opportunities to explore in depth areas of*

*interest to* *them.*

The goals and mission of New College evolved out of intensive dialogue about higher education at the College's inception, involving administration, trustees and the charter faculty. Subsequently, the faculty developed a unique curriculum shaped by the four Founding Principles incorporating the College's broad commitment to individualism, pluralism, flexibility, freedom, and excellence.