

Resolution from the Florida State University Faculty Senate on Board of Governor's Regulation 9.016

The Board of Governors' proposed Regulation 9.016 on Prohibited Expenditures, which proscribes the expenditure of state funding on university activities that engage controversial societal issues, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion, threatens constraints on academic and civil discourse that will isolate Florida universities from nationwide norms and deny our students the high-quality education they deserve.

The proposal is based on definitions of "Diversity, Equity or Inclusion," "Political or Social Activism," and "Social Issues" that are unclear and impractical, because they could apply to most of the curriculum across FSU, from the humanities to STEM. The regulation places a burden on faculty so sweeping that we can never execute it with confidence that we are in compliance. The vague and overbroad directives threaten to embroil university operations in violation of other legal and accreditation requirements. The ambiguity it imposes on acceptable topics and forms of research threatens to undermine our status as a world class Research 1 institution and limits our ability to contribute to society through teaching, research, and scholarship. It would trigger cascading negative consequences for the university's relationship with peer institutions, funding partners, the federal government, and accreditors.

WHEREAS the Florida State University Faculty Senate believes the draft Regulation 9.016 creates serious threats to academic freedom, FSU's national standing, the professionalism of the State University System, and our ability to provide the best education for the students of our university and our state, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge the BOG to revise it in response to the foregoing concerns and objections.
