



Date: 12/14/2022

To: Henry Mack, Sr. Chancellor, Florida Department of Education

From: Tonjua Williams, Chair, Council of Presidents, Florida College System

Re: The Florida College System Council of Presidents Statement on House Bill 7

The presidents of the Florida College System (FCS), by and through the FCS Council of Presidents (COP), jointly commit to eradicating all forms of unlawful discrimination from its campuses. Instruction and training activities are delivered in a manner consistent with Florida law and do not restrict academic/intellectual freedom, freedom of expression, viewpoint diversity or the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.

The COP promotes compliance with all applicable discrimination laws, and colleges will not support any instructional or training activity that unlawfully espouses, promotes, advances, inculcates or compels belief in concepts set forth in House Bill 7 (2022), unless discussion of the concepts listed therein are part of a course of training or instruction given in an objective manner without endorsement of the listed concepts. Such concepts include, for example, the idea that a person, by virtue of his or her race, color, national origin, or sex is inherently racist, privileged, sexist, oppressive, and/or responsible for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, color, national origin, or sex.

The COP recognizes the importance of academic freedom and responsibility as applied to teaching, research, and creativity as essential principles in the higher education academic environment. In the development of knowledge, research endeavors, and creative activities, a college faculty and student body must be free to cultivate a spirit of inquiry and scholarly criticism and to examine ideas in an atmosphere of freedom and confidence, in a nondiscriminatory manner. For example, and as required by Florida law, Florida College System institutions ensure the provision of opportunities for students to engage synchronously in political discussions and civil debates with multiple points of view and to master the ability to synthesize information that informs civic decision making.

Accordingly, the COP commits to trainings, activities and professional development practices delivered in a manner consistent with Florida law and will refrain from funding, promoting, or advancing any instructional or training activity that covers the listed concepts but is not delivered in an objective manner without endorsement of the concepts.

Cc: Kathy Hebda, Chancellor, Florida Department of Education
FCS Council of Presidents