
From: Rodrigues, Ray
Sent: Friday, August 2, 2024 11:15 AM
To: #SUS SUPA <SUS_SUPA@fldoe.org>
Cc: Sikes, Emily <Emily.Sikes@flbog.edu>
Subject: Follow up from Monday's Call

Presidents,

This message is to follow up on our discussion on Monday. First, let me clarify some confusion that has arisen. Two different action items discussed may have been conflated into one.

The first request, which required immediate action, was for each university to identify if a faculty committee (the Curriculum Committee was mentioned during the call) could review relevant course resources such as textbooks and test banks for either antisemitic material and/or anti-Israeli bias before the beginning of fall semester. The concept we discussed on Monday was to look at courses on terrorism, Middle Eastern Studies, religion, and government.

The second item discussed was the need to implement a process for each faculty member to attest that they have reviewed all resources (textbooks, test banks, online materials, etc.) for each course that they teach. To ensure consistency in application, this action item will most likely need to move forward as an update to the BOG regulations.

I have received reports from many of you regarding the feasibility of having a faculty committee complete the review of course materials in those specified subjects before the beginning of the Fall semester. On some campuses, it may be feasible depending on the amount of material that needs to be reviewed. Other campuses will not have faculty back on campus in time to complete a review before the start of the Fall semester.

After consulting with Governor Phalin, the faculty representative on the Board of Governors, a better methodology to identify the courses that need to be reviewed has been identified. We are going to conduct a keyword search on course descriptions and course syllabi. Any course that contains the following keywords: Israel, Israeli, Palestine, Palestinian, Middle East, Zionism, Zionist, Judaism, Jewish, or Jews will be flagged for review. This process will ensure that all universities are reviewing the same courses, and nothing falls through the cracks.

However, this process will require the BOG to submit a data request to the universities. Therefore, even on campuses that identified that it may be feasible for a faculty committee to conduct a review, we won't have the data available in time to move forward with a review before the Fall semester begins.

The most important thing is that we get this right. Therefore, my staff will work with your

university staff utilizing the methodology suggested by Governor Phalin to identify the courses that need to be reviewed. This will quantify the number of courses that will need to be reviewed. Each university should then initiate a faculty review that will need to be completed by the conclusion of the Fall Semester. This review should flag all instances of either antisemitism or anti-Israeli bias identified and report that information to my office.

Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Regards,
Ray

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