

Resolution Recommending Additional Procedures to Protect Academic Freedom

WHEREAS, per the [FIU Senate Constitution and Bylaws](#), “The Senate shares with the university administration the duty to protect academic freedom;” and

WHEREAS, per the Senate Constitution and Bylaws, “The Senate places the welfare of the Academy above parochial interests and participates fully and responsibly in making collective decisions;” and

WHEREAS, per the UFF-FIU [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#), “Academic Freedom includes the freedom of an employee to [...] [p]resent and discuss all relevant matters, determine pedagogy, and to select instructional materials;” and

WHEREAS, the FIU Faculty Handbook includes [identical language](#), thus extending the protection of academic freedom to all faculty, whether inside or outside of the UFF-FIU bargaining unit; and

WHEREAS, the [AAUP Statement on the Freedom to Teach](#), while acknowledging that common course syllabi are frequently used in multi-section courses, insists that the shared syllabi “should not be imposed by departmental or administrative fiat.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

The Faculty Senate urges the University to recommit to our long agreed-upon standards of academic freedom by adopting the following policies:

1. The university administration will not develop or solicit a uniform syllabus or reading list for any course for any reason.
2. The university administration will not suggest, initiate, or create any working group or committee designed to curtail faculty academic freedom, (e.g., by selecting course materials for other faculty or restricting the contents of their classes.)
3. The university administration will not suggest or recommend that faculty serve on any such committee.
4. The university will relay BOG or BOG staff requests ONLY when provided in writing with clear reasoning and actionable details.
5. The university will not penalize faculty (whether full-time or adjunct) for teaching their expertise.

6. Departments will recognize and respect principles of academic freedom and the collectively bargained obligation to defend the exercise of academic freedom when making curricular decisions