

## LEGISLATIVE POSITION: **SB 266 (Grall) - Education Postsecondary**

**From: United Faculty of Florida.** Contacts on this issue are UFF President Andrew Gothard at [andrew.gothard@floridaea.org](mailto:andrew.gothard@floridaea.org), and UFF Government Relations Committee Co-Chairs Nicole Morse at [nikkimorse@gmail.com](mailto:nikkimorse@gmail.com) and Matthew Lata at [matthewlata@gmail.com](mailto:matthewlata@gmail.com).

**The United Faculty of Florida unequivocally opposes this bill**, which threatens to transform our world-class public higher education system into a third-rate indoctrination engine of the state. This bill is a direct attack on free speech and intellectual inquiry. It is full of expensive mandates that would strain budgets and lead to administrative bloat. It will short-change Florida's students, drive away top faculty and student talent, and indirectly hurt Florida's economy by weakening these drivers of economic growth.

### Talking Points:

- **This bill limits the options of our students to explore and learn by mandating the content of a general education curriculum.** It will make our colleges and universities less attractive, and drive top students out of the state.
- **The legislature should be expanding access and providing more spaces for student speech, debate, and learning, not mandating a curriculum or restricting viewpoints.** The response to a perceived lack of speech is not less speech, it's more!
- **Cutting faculty out of hiring decisions will only lower the quality of hires and hurt our colleges and universities.** Members of Boards of Trustees are not experts in all the fields taught and studied at colleges and universities and cannot determine who can best conduct cutting-edge research and up-to-date instruction.
- **Requiring the Board of Trustees and administrators to conduct faculty hiring is unworkable.** Sorting through thousands of faculty applications in multiple fields is a massive task that administrators are unprepared and unqualified to handle. It will lead to administrative bloat, while cutting out field experts who are most qualified to undertake this task.
- **Requiring university presidents to conduct performance evaluations of many employees is a potentially massive expansion of university bureaucracy.** It will lead to further administrative bloat and will turn presidents into glorified HR directors. Costs for these changes will be diverted away from colleges' and universities missions to teach and conduct research.
- **Establishing a new "Hamilton College" at the University of Florida is a waste of taxpayer money.** It reduplicates other parts of the university, adds more administrative costs, while diverting funding from the overall mission of the university.
- **SB 266 will empower administrators to harass and target faculty** by allowing post-tenure review to be conducted at any time, with vague wording about "cause."
- **SB 266 will compel speech, control curriculum, and insert politics into the classroom in ways that will cause Florida's institutions to lose accreditation**, harming hundreds of thousands of students across the state.
- **The changes in hiring processes conflict with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) practices** by barring universities from expressing their commitment to hiring practices that are compliant with the EEOC.

Please **vote NO** on this bill and protect Florida's colleges and universities from this wasteful bill, which limits the freedoms of Florida's students and teachers and harms the quality and prestige of our outstanding colleges and universities.

**The Higher Education Affiliate of Florida Education Association, National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, and AFL-CIO**