

OPEN DISCLOSURE AND PARENTAL OBJECTIONS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL

Last Revised: November 18, 2021

Board Approved January 16, 2022

In accordance with R-277-700, Walden School of Liberal Arts encourages parental involvement in curriculum adoption and review and adheres to the following policy:

A. All teachers should list the instructional materials they intend to use in the disclosure documents/syllabi provided to parents and students at the beginning of each class (semester, term, wintercession etc). All syllabi must receive administrative approval prior to distribution to parents

B. Some materials, specifically those concerning human sexuality curriculum, may require parental permission (written consent) for use in the classroom.

C. Materials that may be considered sensitive under prevailing community standards should be **specifically** noted in a teacher's open disclosure document/syllabi. Parents should be given sufficient advance notice that such materials will be used to instruct their students so that interested parents may review the materials and register any objection.

D. Parents should, in a timely manner and in accordance with the procedures outlined in the section below, inform teachers of any sensitive materials they do not wish their children to use. Students will not be forced to use any instructional material deemed objectionable by their parents, unless such material and the use thereof is required by state law or board policy for graduation.

PROCEDURES TO EXPRESS CONCERNS AND TO REQUEST REVIEW OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. Parents are encouraged to initially discuss their concerns about any

instructional material being used in the classroom with the appropriate teacher.

B. The teacher should meet with the parents to discuss their concerns, the reason for the selection, and, if appropriate, offer a mutually acceptable alternative. Teachers should inform administrators of any parental concerns regarding curriculum.

C. If the parents are not satisfied with that outcome, they may submit a written explanation of their concern(s) with the instructional material(s) to the school administrator

D. The administrator will inform the parents, i.e. complainant, of the intended use of the questioned material and its relevance to the core curriculum. The administrator may involve appropriate personnel in the explanation of the selection procedure, criteria, and the qualifications of those who reviewed and recommended the material.

E. In the event the complainant is not satisfied with the initial explanation, he or she may submit a complaint to the Board of Trustees

1. All formal objections to instructional material submitted in written form can be filed only by a parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled at Walden.

2. Within 14 business days, the Board Chair or designee, will form a curriculum review committee consisting of key school personnel (teachers, administration etc) and parent representatives to review the complaint and the curriculum in question and make a recommendation to the Board Chair to either retain said curriculum or modify it.

3. The Board of Trustees will vote in open session on whether or not to adopt the committee's recommendations.

4. The parent (complainant) will receive written notification of the Board of Trustees decision.

5. In most cases, the curriculum in question will remain in use during the review process.

6. Should the Board vote to alter or remove curriculum, Administrators will work with teachers and other key personnel to ensure that changes are made immediately.