

Faculty Senate Resolution

Passed by the Faculty Senate on March 2, 2022

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS state legislative proposals are being introduced across the United States that target academic discussions of racism and related issues in American history in schools, colleges and universities;

WHEREAS the Faculty Handbook (pp. 51-52) affirms the importance of academic freedom to the proper functioning of universities, citing the American Association of University Professors' [1940 statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#);

WHEREAS the Faculty Handbook also entitles faculty to freedom in research, in establishing curriculum, and classroom teaching;

WHEREAS the Carolinian Creed commits each member of this community to discouraging bigotry and learning from differences;

WHEREAS educating members of this community about systemic barriers to a broad-based and inclusive democracy that go beyond bigotry is central to living out the Carolinian Creed, and to the active and engaged pursuit of the knowledge required to be an informed citizen in the 21st century;

WHEREAS many critiques aimed at anti-oppression theoretical and pedagogical orientations that center on their alleged divisiveness seek to limit the freedom of educators to pursue legitimate educational and developmental ends, particularly those that originate with elected officials, media personalities, and other politicians outside the academy;

WHEREAS the [University of South Carolina's Presidential Commission on University History](#) both acknowledges and confronts this university's history of race, gender, and other forms of oppression guided by principles of integrity, objectivity, accountability, and openness;

WHEREAS dozens of organizations, including the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU), issued the [Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History](#) (June 16, 2021) stating their "firm opposition to a spate of legislative proposals being introduced across the country that target academic lessons, presentations, and discussions of racism and related issues in American history in schools, colleges and universities . . . In higher education, under principles of academic freedom that have been widely endorsed, professors are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject. Educators, not politicians, should make decisions about teaching and learning;"

WHEREAS in a nation that has for centuries struggled with various forms of social inequity and injustice, about which many members of this community lack adequate knowledge, the

University of South Carolina has a specific and unique responsibility to educate and an opportunity to help build a society that values equity and social justice in both word and deed.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Faculty Senate affirms the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) [Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism](#), authored by the AAUP, PEN America, the American Historical Association, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, endorsed by dozens of organizations, and issued on June 16, 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Faculty Senate calls upon the UofSC President and Provost to also affirm the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) [Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism](#), authored by the AAUP, PEN America, the American Historical Association, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, endorsed by dozens of organizations, and issued on June 16, 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate stands with our K-12 colleagues throughout South Carolina and the nation who may be affected by pernicious legislation and other attacks on their academic freedom when they seek to teach racial histories and related issues in their courses.

[Basic tenets of critical race theory](#)