



Haley Gluhanich

to me ▾

4:32 PM (49 minutes ago)



Dear Texas A&M Board of Regents,

FIRE remains concerned about the most recent proposed revisions to Texas A&M University's policies on Civil Rights Protections and Compliance and Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure. While the new proposed revisions state that "No system academic course will *advocate* race or gender ideology, or topics related to sexual orientation or gender identity, unless the course and the relevant course materials are approved in advance by the member CEO," such a policy *still* invites unconstitutional political interference with faculty teaching and academic freedom.

First, the term "advocate" is impermissibly vague because it does not give faculty a reasonable opportunity to know what is prohibited or what is considered "advocating." And state university rules that do not give "adequate warning of the conduct which is to be prohibited" fail to comply with due process because they threaten to "trap the innocent" and "invite arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement." Administrators will be given too much power to subjectively determine what is considered "advocating" and faculty will too easily self-censor to avoid any potential punishment.

Additionally, this new language still impedes faculty academic freedom. As we previously wrote, faculty have the right to determine whether, when, and how to teach material germane to the topic of their courses—not administrators. And if administrators are given the power to subjectively deem a pedagogical method "advocacy," faculty lose the necessary breathing room to follow the pursuit of knowledge wherever it may lead. To the extent the university is worried that advocacy in the classroom is a problem, it need not look further than its already established policies addressing faculty indoctrination and political speech in the classroom

We, once again, urge the board to reject these proposals.

Sincerely,

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