

3356-2-07 Affirmations regarding controversial beliefs or policies and intellectual diversity.

- (A) Policy statement. This policy is intended to comply with The Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, specifically section 3345.0217 of the Revised Code. This policy defines “controversial beliefs or policies” and “intellectual diversity” and affirms the university’s commitment to the principles of scholarly pursuit, as set forth in section 3345.0217 of the Revised Code.
- (B) Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to affirm its commitment to the principles of scholarly pursuit.
- (C) Scope.
 - (1) Nothing in this policy prohibits faculty or students from classroom instruction, discussion, or debate so long as faculty members allow students to express intellectual diversity.
 - (2) Nothing in this policy prohibits Youngstown state university from complying with any state or federal law to provide disability services or to permit student organizations, including fraternities and sororities.
 - (3) The general assembly may withhold or reduce any state operating subsidy payments, state capital improvement funds or other state appropriation to Youngstown state university if the general assembly determines that the university has failed to comply with the requirements of this policy.
- (D) Definitions.
 - (1) “Controversial belief or policy” means any belief or policy that is the subject of political controversy, including issues such as climate policies, electoral politics, foreign policy, diversity, equity and inclusion programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion.
 - (2) “Intellectual diversity” means multiple, divergent, and varied perspectives on an extensive range of public policy issues.
- (D) Parameters. Per section 3345.0217 of the Revised Code, Youngstown state university:
 - (1) Affirms and declares that its primary function is to practice or support the practice, discovery, improvement, transmission and dissemination of knowledge and citizenship education by means of research, teaching, discussion, and debate;

- (2) Affirms and declares that to fulfill the function described in the preceding paragraph, Youngstown state university shall ensure the fullest degree of intellectual diversity;
- (3) Affirms and declares that faculty and staff shall allow and encourage students to reach their own conclusions about all controversial beliefs or policies and shall not seek to indoctrinate any social, political, or religious point of view;
- (4) Demonstrates intellectual diversity for course approval, approval of courses to satisfy general education requirements, student courses evaluations, common reading programs, annual reviews, strategic goals for each department and student learning outcomes;
 - (a) Paragraphs (D)(1) to (D)(4) of this rule do not apply to the exercise of professional judgment about how to accomplish intellectual diversity within an academic discipline, unless that exercise is misused to constrict intellectual diversity.
- (5) Declares that it will not endorse or oppose, as a university, any controversial belief or policy, except on matters that directly impact the university's funding or mission of discovery, improvement, and dissemination of knowledge. The university may also endorse the congress of the United States when it establishes a state of armed hostility against a foreign power as well as the recognition of national and state holidays, support for the Constitution and laws of the United states or the state of Ohio, or the display of the American or Ohio flag;
- (6) Affirms and declares that Youngstown state university will not encourage, discourage, require, or forbid students, faculty or administrators to endorse, assent to or publicly express a given ideology, political stance or view of a social policy, nor will Youngstown state university require students to do any of those things to obtain an undergraduate or postgraduate degree;
 - (a) Paragraphs (D)(5) and (D)(6) of this rule do not apply to the exercise of professional judgment about whether to endorse the consensus or foundational beliefs of an academic discipline, unless that exercise is misused to take an action prohibited in (D)(5) of this rule.
- (7) Prohibits political and ideological litmus tests in all hiring, promotion, and admissions decisions, including diversity statement and any other requirement that applicants describe their commitment to any ideology, principle, concept or formulation that requires commitment to any controversial belief or policy;

- (8) Affirms and declares that no hiring, promotion, or admissions process or decision shall encourage, discourage, require, or forbid students, faculty or administrators to endorse, assent to, or publicly express a given ideology or political stance;
- (9) Affirms and declares that Youngstown state university will not use a diversity statement or any other assessment of an applicant's political or ideological views in hiring, promotions, or admissions process or decision;
- (10) Affirms and declares that no process or decision regulating conditions of work or study, such as committee assignments, course scheduling, or workload adjustment policies, shall encourage, discourage, require, or forbid students, faculty or administrators to endorse, assent to or publicly express a given ideology or political stance;
- (11) Affirms and declares that Youngstown state university will seek out invited speakers who have diverse ideological or political views;
- (12) Will post prominently on its website a complete list of all speaker fees, honoraria and other emoluments in excess of five hundred dollars for events that are sponsored by Youngstown state university;
 - (a) The website referred to above shall be:
 - (i) Accessible from the main page of the university's website by use of not more than three links;
 - (ii) Searchable by keywords and phrases;
 - (iii) Accessible to the public without requiring user registration of any kind.

(E) Procedures.

- (1) Any student, student group, or faculty member may file a complaint alleging the university violated any of the requirements or prohibitions of section 3345.0217 of the Revised Code contained in this policy.

The complaint form may be found on the university's webpage titled, "[Advance Ohio Higher Education Act \(SB1 136th General Assembly\)](#)." The complaint process may be found in university policy 3356-2-09.

Complaints may also be made in person at the office of equal opportunity, third floor of Tod hall, suite 312, or by telephone by calling the office of equal opportunity at (330) 941-2160.

- (2) Any administrator, teacher, staff member, or employee who violates this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.