



MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: JoNel Newman
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "JoNel Newman".

Date: April 21, 2023

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2022-109(D) – Faculty Senate Resolution Stating Its Support of its Philosophy and Beliefs

The Faculty Senate, at its April 19, 2023, meeting, adopted the following resolution to state its philosophy and beliefs and to show support to other higher education institutions.

WHEREAS the University of Miami’s Mission Statement¹ in part professes that:

We are committed to freedom of inquiry-the freedom to think, to question, to criticize, and to dissent.

We will prepare our students for rewarding lifelong careers and will instill in them a continued and permanent dedication to the search for knowledge and the search for truth.

We will provide them with the foundations for ethical citizenship and service to others, a respect for differences among people, and a commitment to high standards of thought and communication.

We will strive to transform the world in positive ways through innovative education, impactful research and scholarship, and the translation of knowledge into solutions.

and WHEREAS the University of Miami’s Mission of the Faculty² defines the basic functions of a university as “to preserve, augment, criticize and transmit knowledge and to foster creative capacities.”

and WHEREAS the University of Miami Faculty Manual Statement of Philosophy and Objectives³ asserts that among its four great obligations to Society, Its Students, the World of Knowledge, and To Itself, the University as an institution endeavors in part:

To bring to bear on society’s problems its knowledge, independent judgment, objective inquiry, free expression, scholarly approach, and rational argument.

¹ <https://welcome.miami.edu/about-um/mission-statement/index.html>

² University of Miami Faculty Manual 2022-2023, 66.

³ Ibid, i.

To graduate mature and responsible men and women ... with potential as thoughtful, informed citizens in a free, democratic, pluralistic and complex society.

To stimulate and encourage the identification of the values and judgments implicit in personal, institutional and social decisions.

To organize, preserve, and evaluate existing knowledge and to disseminate knowledge.

To maintain the freedom to explore all of the ideas of man free to question, argue, create, accept or reject.

To provide an exemplary environment and opportunities for every individual, regardless of race, creed, nationality or sex.

and WHEREAS the University of Miami's Faculty Government Charter's Preamble⁴ defines the university as:

a community of scholars contributing, according to their individual talents and interests, to the transmission and advancement of knowledge. Because of its diversity of interests, a university is a complex organization, not quite like any other in its management, which requires the understanding and good faith of people dedicated to a common purpose.

and WHEREAS the University of Miami's Faculty Government Charter⁵ sets forth the principles and procedures that protect academic freedom:

Faculty members shall have full freedom of expression as teachers, researchers, scholars, and/or artists; this includes freedom to present their work, to advocate solutions to human problems, and to criticize existing institutions.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Miami:
reiterates its belief in these purposes of higher education;

proclaims that academic freedom is essential to these purposes and applies to both teaching and research;

stands in full support of its colleagues at institutions of higher education across the State of Florida and across the U.S. who seek to uphold these same purposes;

and asserts that to sustain a fair and just society for all individuals in the State of Florida and across the U.S., that faculty at colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education should be recognized as having inalienable rights to self-determine the best ways to support the free search for truth and its free exposition.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

JN/rh

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost

⁴ Ibid, 1.

⁵ Ibid, 66