

## **STATEMENT**

January 24, 2024

### **Education Leaders Condemn Board of Governors Vote to Remove Sociology from Core Curriculum**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 24, 2024)** – Education leaders today are speaking out against the Florida Board of Governors (BOG) vote to remove Principles of Sociology as a general education core course option for students. Florida’s college and universities students have effectively been hindered in their ability to benefit from curriculum that is diverse and welcomes critical thinking.

#### **What leaders are saying:**

**Teresa M. Hodge, United Faculty of Florida (UFF) President, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Broward College**

“We are disappointed in this decision by the Board of Governors (BOG) but unfortunately, we are not surprised. Florida’s State Board of Education (SBOE) and BOG have made it abundantly clear that they do not care about the robust education of our students, and instead only care about political games. I repeat this warning – Florida is now the only state in the nation that no longer includes sociology as a core course option within the general education curriculum.

The BOG and SBOE have all but ensured that our higher education system is less competitive, which is surprising for a state that always talks about its need to be competitive on a global stage and a governor who likes to boast about Florida’s higher education system becoming the best in the nation. This move by each of these Boards also underscores the direction in which our state’s education policy has been moving for years. And ultimately, the ones who pay the price for such abysmal education policy decisions are our students.

UFF will not back down but will continue to fight for the rights of our students, graduate assistants, and faculty. More importantly, UFF will continue to advocate for a first-class higher education system that continues to promote research, analysis, teaching and learning, critical thinking, discourse (that challenges and informs), and academic freedom in an inclusive, diverse, and equitable environment that allows our students to grow and thrive.”

**Andrew Spar, President, Florida Education Association (FEA)**

“We are disappointed in the outcome of today’s Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. The votes by the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the BOG are indicative of a state that does not want to listen to its communities or experts. When our leaders fail to take into account our students and their needs, they are failing them and their communities. We must continue to ensure that students from all walks of life are represented in the curriculum they can choose from. At the Florida Education Association, we will continue to advocate for a world-class education that welcomes diversity of thought and works for all students.”

Additional contact information or background available upon request.

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*The United Faculty of Florida represents over 25,000 faculty at all 12 public universities, 15 colleges and Saint Leo University, along with graduate assistants at four universities.*