

WHEREAS, some Texas state officials have recently pledged to introduce legislation banning the teaching of “critical race theory” and other “divisive” topics in publicly funded colleges and universities;^[1]

WHEREAS, several other states, such as Florida and Tennessee, currently have legislation either pending or passed that aims to limit the instruction of controversial topics;^[2]

WHEREAS, the Collin College Faculty Council has previously voiced its support for the principles of academic freedom, particularly noting that for an environment of active learning to exist, “students and faculty alike [must] be able to explore ideas freely, frankly, and critically without fear of reprisal”;^[3]

WHEREAS, the Texas Community College Teachers Association (TCCTA) has expressed grave concerns about these legislative threats to academic freedom, unequivocally stating that “our organization opposes any policy that would deny faculty and students an environment for open inquiry, unfettered by political pressure” and contends that such efforts “[pose] a threat to accreditation of higher education institutions across the state”;^[4]

WHEREAS, more than 150 national and regional organizations, including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), have signed the “Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History” (June 16, 2021), voicing their “firm opposition to a spate of legislative proposals being introduced across the country” and labeling such legislation that targets the teaching of “divisive concepts” as anathema to faculty rights to academic freedom;^[5]

WHEREAS, Collin College policy affirms that “teaching faculty members have the freedom to discuss any controversial matter and to voice opinions within areas of their professional competence” and defines such freedom as “essential” because “the teacher’s right to teach preserves the student’s right to learn,” and avers that the College will “uphold vigorously the principles of academic freedom and to protect the faculty...from outside groups and individuals”;^[6]

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Collin College Faculty Council reaffirms its commitment to espousing principles of academic freedom and entrusting faculty to guide curricular design and praxis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Collin College Faculty Council urges Collin College to support the academic freedom statements by TCCTA and SACSCOC, joining other regional and national organizations^[5] to reaffirm their endorsement of faculty to teach and research freely, as it befits their expertise.

[1] <https://www.chron.com/politics/article/Texas-critical-race-theory-schools-Dan-Patrick-UT-16923077.php>
<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/texas-news/coming-up-dan-patrick-proposes-plan-to-ban-critical-race-theory-in-state-schools/2894264/>

[2] Florida: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/7/BillText/er/PDF>

Tennessee: <https://time.com/6162489/divisive-concepts-colleges/>

[3] <http://faculty.collin.edu/ebock/>

[4] <https://www.tccta.org/2022/03/09/resolution-in-support-of-academic-freedom/>

[5] <https://www.aacu.org/newsroom/joint-statement-on-legislative-efforts-to-restrict-education-about-racism-and-american-history>
<https://sacscoc.org/news-and-events/joint-statement-on-legislative-efforts-to-restrict-education-about-racism-and-american-history/>

[6] [https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=DGC\(LOCAL\).pdf](https://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=DGC(LOCAL).pdf) , 1, 2.
