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**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2024 11:17 AM  
**To:** Amanda J. Phalin <[amanda.phalin@warrington.ufl.edu](mailto:amanda.phalin@warrington.ufl.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: Advisory Council of Faculty Senates Feedback on Bias in Textbooks

[External Email]

Dear Governor Phalin,

Thank you for sharing the concerns of the Advisory Council of Faculty Senates (ACFS). I look forward to future communications with you as we move forward on this subject.

The Advisory Council for Faculty Senates objects to a review of instructional materials. One of their concerns is the claim that it violates academic freedom.

Academic freedom is not a license to promote antisemitism.

As you know, academic freedom has been frequently raised by the ACFS when expressing concerns to my office. I read the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure along with the 1970 Interpretive Comments and see both acknowledged, "Academic Freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of rights of the teacher in teaching and the student to freedom in learning. ***It carries with it duties correlative with rights.***"

The same faculty members who are quick to assert their academic freedom are always silent on the duties that accompany that freedom.

In the State University System of Florida, one of those duties is compliance with state law. Florida Statute 1000.05 prohibits discrimination and antisemitism in the Florida K-20 public education system.

The ACFS has spent several meetings to identify their concerns, yet the fact that antisemitic material was presented in a course this summer is absent from their list of concerns. Given that the ACFS has held several meetings on this subject, were there any discussions on how to ensure antisemitic material is kept out of our courses? If so, what suggestions can ACFS provide?

Ignoring that antisemitic material was presented in a course this summer is not an option. The publisher of the textbook has taken the necessary steps on their end to ensure this does not happen again. Our universities need to take the necessary steps on our end. In the spirit of shared governance, I'm consulting with ACFS to learn its preference. Does ACFS prefer for faculty on each campus to conduct the review of the course material or does ACFS prefer that I appoint a blue-ribbon panel and have the review centrally conducted from the office of the State University System? By September 15, the

courses that need to be reviewed will be identified and quantified, so there are a couple of weeks for ACFS to decide its preference.

Sincerely,  
Ray