

Board of Governors Resolution 2023-01

February 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Board Resolution on Inclusive Communities

UNIVERSITIES AFFECTED: All

BACKGROUND: The Board of Governors seeks to express its support for the universities through the following resolution:

Board of Governors Resolution on Inclusive Communities

WHEREAS, PASSHE is committed to operating from a foundation of values that upholds human dignity whereby all people are treated with respect; promotes a sense of belonging; fosters the success of all students, faculty, and staff by creating inclusive environments; and affirms the transformative power of higher education, and

WHEREAS, PASSHE universities—as part of that commitment and in their role as public institutions—uphold the constitutional right of free speech and strive to provide environments where all members of the community are heard and treat one another with the respect and dignity they deserve as fellow human beings, which is the definition of inclusive environments, and

WHEREAS, such inclusive environments across the State System of Higher Education are fundamental to fostering the success of students, faculty, staff, and the broader community, and

WHEREAS, inclusive environments demonstrably improve student outcomes including persistence and graduation rates, and

WHEREAS, the Board, consistent with its authority as the governing body of the State System, is committed to ensuring policies and practices are informed by evidence that they create conditions in which all members of our community can thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that PASSHE universities and/or the System Office shall develop and maintain policies, standards, and procedures that promote inclusive environments for all students, faculty, and staff regardless of their race, color, ethnicity, religion, disability, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or national origin. System-level and/or university-level policies, standards, and procedures include but are not limited to:

- Non-discrimination
- Student conduct
- Expectations of civility
- Protection of minors
- Amorous relations

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chancellor, in consultation with the Presidents, shall seek to achieve commonality in language among the various policies, standards, and procedures developed to meet the expectations of this resolution.

Supporting Documents Included: N/A

Other Supporting Documents Available: N/A

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