A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HB1087

WHEREAS: The South Dakota House of Representatives dropped HB 1087 “An Act to promote intellectual diversity at certain institutions of higher education” on January 25, 2019, intending to promote free speech by protecting expressive activity defined as “any lawful verbal or written means by which one person communicates ideas to another”; and

WHEREAS: In 2018, The South Dakota Board of Regents (BOR) underwent a year-long freedom of expression policy review, allowing stakeholders to provide testimony on two separate occasions. The review was conducted ethically, professionally, and with transparency at the highest value – working with institutional representatives, corresponding with lawmakers, and engaging with stakeholders. The work led to policy revisions approved during the December 2018 meeting; and

WHEREAS: the revisions to SDBOR freedom of expression policy included overarching protections through the creation of SDBOR policy 1:32, expressing the Board’s “commitment to the principles of expression protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution”; and

WHEREAS: Student concerns guided the revision, showing a dedication to holding the student experience at the forefront of policy decisions. HB 1087 removes the autonomy of the BOR to create or change current policies supporting a community conducive to education; and
WHEREAS: Section 11 of HB 1087 requires candidates for graduation to “demonstrate the successful completion of three credits in the area of United States history and three credits in the area of United States government” and Section 12 requires they “correctly answer at least eighty-five percent of the questions on the civics test”. Additional graduation requirements necessitate more section offerings and administrative management, resulting in leveraged fees on students already increasingly supporting their own education; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Dakota State University Student Association Senate firmly opposes and urges the defeat of House Bill 1087.

Adopted: 02/19/2019

Jacob Williams
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