



**Coalition of Student Leaders
University of Alaska**

**RESOLUTION #2025-01:
Coalition Stance on Board of Regents DEI Statement**

- WHEREAS:** The Board of Regents has ordered the University to remove all language involving the words “diversity,” “equity,” and “inclusion,” effective Friday, February 28th; and,
- WHEREAS:** The U.S. Constitution's First Amendment allows individuals to speak freely, especially within public institutions like our universities. Hence, the Board of Regents’ recent immediate action violates this right; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Board of Regents policy P04.04.010 (Academic Freedom) states: “Nothing contained in Regents’ policy or university regulation will be construed to limit or abridge any person’s right to free speech or to infringe the academic freedom of any member of the university community;”; and,
- WHEREAS:** The Constitution of the State of Alaska States that “Every person may freely speak, write, and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right,” and,
- WHEREAS:** Alaskan Native communities have a right to equitable opportunity for scholarships, cultural centers, and support services and are put at risk by banning the usage of the words diversity, equity, and inclusion; and,
- WHEREAS:** UA campuses have services like multicultural lounges, pride centers, Native courses, and clubs based on diversity to express their identity and inclusion, with all currently being inclusive and welcoming to all people; and,
- WHEREAS:** Banning such words puts equitable scholarships based on race, gender, and culture at risk. These scholarships help those in need not due to their identity but to uphold equal opportunity standards; and,
- WHEREAS:** Eliminating sources of inclusion can impact a student's mental health, where many students in the state of Alaska already experience dire mental

health struggles; and,

WHEREAS: Values of diversity, equity, and inclusion are part of the Alaskan experience and keep the state, and by extension, the University, going; and,

WHEREAS: Recent federal court rulings—including a preliminary injunction issued in *National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education v. Donald J. Trump*, Case No. 1:25-cv-00333-ABA, on February 21, 2025—have blocked key portions of the executive order mandating DEI eliminations, demonstrating that there is no immediate legal or financial necessity for this university to comply preemptively; and...

WHEREAS: There has been a student outcry across the state related to these hasty actions, and students now feel as though they are no longer seen or heard by the Board of Regents.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

The Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska believes the Board of Regents' hasty actions set a dangerous precedent of immediate compliance with the current administration. Complying with this particular order before it is challenged paves the way to giving up everything the University, and by extension, all its students, hold dearly. We, the Coalition of Student Leaders, understand the stance of compliance, but we are disheartened by the immediate action before this unconstitutional action is even being challenged; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

The Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska demands that services related to diversity, inclusion, and equity, such as diversity lounges, events, courses, clubs, and Pride centers, be protected and not shut down by the University of Alaska; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

The Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska demands that the Board of Regents revisit its statement and policies, not just for legal reasons but also because of what the student body of the entire university believes is the best course of action for equity and equality; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

That the Coalition demands full transparency from university leadership, including a public disclosure of what legal analysis—if any—supported this decision, and why such a consequential policy change was made behind closed doors, without student or faculty consultation; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

The Coalition of Student Leaders calls upon university leadership to publicly reaffirm their commitment to fostering an inclusive environment, regardless of the language used in official documents, and to take substantive action to ensure that the principles of DEI remain embedded in hiring, admissions, curriculum, and campus culture.

#2025-01: Coalition Stance on Board of Regents DEI Statement

[02/25/2025]

Statement of Purpose: The Coalition of Student Leaders hereby pledges its commitment to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion and disapproves of the Board of Regents' hasty, unconstitutional action before this order is challenged in court through due process.

Fiscal Impact: The Board of Regents' hasty decision has unknown fiscal impact, but it is the position of the Coalition that this action allows the possibility for minorities to be excluded from equitable enrollment, which would directly harm the University and its finances.

Adopted by the Coalition of Student Leaders of the University of Alaska by a vote of:

Aye: 5 , Nay: 1 , Abstain: 2, on this day of February 26, 2025

DocuSigned by:


Tina Hamlin
Chair, Coalition of Student Leaders
University of Alaska
AY 2022-Present