

Board of Regents Meeting
June 6-7, 2024
Item 26 – *Handbook* Revision, Anti-Discrimination (*In part*)
Clean Verbatim Transcript

BROOKS: Chair, at this time, Regent Brooks for the record, with your indulgence, Chair, I'd like to make a motion to approve agenda item 26 as it is written on our agenda, and if counsel needs me to read specifically what agenda 26 is, I'm happy to do that, it'll just take me a moment to pull it up.

GOODMAN: I second that motion.

NIELSEN: Chris Nielsen, for the record. I believe agenda item 26 doesn't need to be reread. I think it speaks for itself in that it contemplates policy changes in the *Handbook*, Title 4, Chapter 8, Sections 1 and 2.

CARVALHO: So, there is a motion from Regent Brooks and a second from Regent Goodman to accept the revision as written. I would like to offer an amendment or restate the motion to approve as it is presented and then to also form a committee to talk about, that will contemplate this specific part of the *Handbook*, sorry, I've got to get it in front of me, so that we can strengthen both the policy for, in this regard, because we have so many questions about this at this time, and make sure that it is inclusive of all.

BROOKS: Regent Brooks, for the record. Chair, I appreciate your inclination to offer a friendly amendment. I would be...I'm not opposed to what it is that you're trying to do to set up continued conversation regarding this. I believe that's extraordinarily important and that's something that we should do. While at the same time, I really believe we have things in place to be able to move forward in a specific direction, and certainly as Chair, you could bring an agenda item forward where perhaps a committee is formed to discuss something, but I would not be amenable to doing anything that would disrupt the current language for this agenda item. Thank you, Chair.

CARVALHO: Any other discussion on this motion?

MCMICHAEL: Yes.

CARVALHO: Please go ahead, Regent McMichael.

MCMICHAEL: Well, I don't have that much to say, but I'm kind of jealous. I'm jealous of the fact that although we can talk about history, we're not really talking about the history of the United States other than the fact that Indigenous people have been treated extremely poorly in this country. They've been slaughtered. They've been set upon with smallpox to try to eradicate them. And then we have blacks who have been brought over here since the 1600s and have been treated extremely poorly. And yet we still haven't seen complete equal rights. As well as the fact that I can't go around campus and say I'm not black, alright? I can't change my color. So, when it comes to this particular issue, I really think that some groups need to take a ticket and get in line. Because I want to see a definition first for Indigenous people, then for black people, then for Mexican Americans, and every other ethnic group that's been here, you know, almost from the beginning. This history is something that the United States still doesn't own up to, but yet, we have a small group of people, because they were set upon in World War II, have the notion that they can set themselves up in a higher position than anyone else in the United States. I feel very badly and thought that the Hamas massacre was atrocious. But the United States have been massacring Indians and blacks for a lot longer. So, if you really want to have a discrimination, antidiscrimination setting for this, I would agree to it, but the way things are going, we're setting aside a group above all other groups. I'm pretty sure that there are black students that walk the campus and are in fear. We don't have to worry about Palestinians. We have African Americans, Mexican Americans, you know, throughout the United States that have had horrendous acts perpetrated on them that somehow we've been told we need to have a thicker skin. So, these things that we're trying to settle on right now because some Jewish students are frightful to come to campus...get in line. There's others who have been here a lot longer and have been treated more poorly. And for you to come and say that, oh my gosh, just remember in World War II we had the Holocaust and they were in concentration camps. We still have concentration camps here

in the United States. You know, just ask any Indian, Native American. They exist on these reservations because, for the most part, that's the only place they feel safe. So, in this audience that we have as Regents, we need to consider everyone, not just one group. You know, I think we're going by those who speak the loudest are the first to be heard. So, I think that we need to set this aside and have a committee to go over it. Because if you're going to set one group of people above everyone else, you better know what you're talking about. Now I'm going to paraphrase an author, George Orwell, and say that all humans are created equal, but some humans are created more equal. Now just set aside all your emotional outrage about what has happened in October and say, you know what, we really need to be fair about this. We're not the only ones that have been discriminated against, set upon, and had anti-discriminatory practices for all the years that the United States has been in existence. So, what happened in October, again, is atrocious. But as far as I know, if any student said that they were harmed physically, or they felt extremely unsafe, you know what they do? They go to the authorities. If they've been hurt physically, that individual needs to be arrested and adjudicated in a court of law. So, if you don't feel safe and something happened, where do you go? You go to the law. And the law in this country is the First Amendment, and I don't think that we're allowing exceptions to the First Amendment to overrule common sense here. So that's what I have to say. And I disagree with this vote if it takes place, and I will not vote in favor of it. So, that's more or less my opinion. Thank you.