

1 RESOLUTION 2223-SP-003
2 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED OHIO SENATE BILL 83
3 Author: Madeline Carrola.1, Delegate; James Holley.113, Delegate; Charlie Mace.103,
4 Government Affairs Chair; Katie Conner.280, Vice President
5 Sponsor: Government Affairs Committee
6

7 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all
8 graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University as established by Article II
9 Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and

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11 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students or its appointed representative(s) have the
12 power to act as an advisory agent on behalf of graduate students on all matters brought
13 before personnel, committees, or agencies of The Ohio State University involving the
14 interest of graduate students as established in Article III Section 3 of the CGS
15 Constitution; and

16
17 WHEREAS Senate Bill 83 (SB 83) Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act was
18 introduced into the Ohio Senate on March 14, 2023.¹ SB 83 was referred to the Senate
19 Workforce and Education Committee and received a 2nd hearing on March 29, 2023; and
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21 WHEREAS SB 83 proposes changes to sections 3345.45,² 4117.14,³ and 4117.15⁴ of
22 the Ohio Revised Code and enacts new sections to this code; and

23
24 WHEREAS revised section 3345.0217 per SB 83 (A) would define a “Controversial belief
25 or policy” as,

26
27 *“any belief or policy that is the subject of political controversy, including issues such*
28 *as climate change, electoral politics, foreign policy, diversity, equity, and inclusion*
29 *programs, immigration policy, marriage, or abortion;”*
30

31 and

32
33 WHEREAS revised section 3345.0217 (B) per SB 83 would prohibit state institutions of
34 higher education from having any mandatory programs or training courses regarding
35 diversity, equity, or inclusion; and

36
37 WHEREAS revised section 3345.0217 (B) per SB 83 would prohibit staff and faculty at
38 state institutions for higher education from influencing students’ opinions on “*controversial*
39 *matters,*” and require that staff and faculty “*shall not seek to inculcate any social, political,*
40 *or religious point of view;*” and

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42 WHEREAS revised section 3345.0217 (B) per SB 83 would prohibit state institutions of
43 higher education from using diversity statements or a commitment to the specified
44 concepts in hiring, promotion, or admissions; and
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¹<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/sb83>

²<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3345.45>

³<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4117.14>

⁴<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-4117.15>

46 WHEREAS revised section 3345.029 (B) per SB 83 would require all undergraduate
47 courses at state institutions of higher education to have publicly available syllabi, and for
48 these syllabi to contain biographical information on the instructor, the extent of which is
49 not defined in the current version of SB83; and

50
51 WHEREAS revised section 3345.382 (A) per SB 83 would require all students seeking
52 an associate's or bachelor's degree at state institutions of higher education to complete
53 at least one 3-credit hour course in American government or American history and would
54 require all students to pass a cumulative examination that assesses each student's
55 proficiency on the United States' Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Federalist
56 Papers, Emancipation Proclamation, Gettysburg Address, and the Letter from
57 Birmingham Jail; and

58
59 WHEREAS revised section 3345.451 (B) per SB 83 would require faculty evaluations at
60 state institutions of higher education to assess whether or not the individual "*create(s) a*
61 *classroom atmosphere free of political, racial, gender, and religious bias.*" With the
62 exception of "*controversial beliefs and policies,*" the terms used in these requirements are
63 not defined; and

64
65 WHEREAS revised section 3345.591 (B) per SB 83 would prohibit state institutions of
66 higher education from accepting gifts, donations, or contributions from the People's
67 Republic of China or any individual who may be acting on behalf of the People's Republic
68 of China, including a student or family member of a student; and

69
70 WHEREAS revised section 3345.591 (E) per SB 83 would prohibit state institutions of
71 higher education from entering into any academic relationship with an academic
72 institution geographically located in China or an academic institution that is that is located
73 in another country and is associated with the People's Republic of China; and

74
75 WHEREAS revised section 3345.87 (D) per SB 83 would prohibit state institutions of
76 higher education from training any administrator, teacher, staff, or employee to adopt or
77 believe in a range of topics, including that "*individuals should feel discomfort, guilt,*
78 *anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of his or her race or sex.*"
79 This example is one of several in the proposed bill that attempt to create solutions to
80 problems that do not exist, as this proponent is not a part of curriculum; and

81
82 WHEREAS revised section 4117.14 (D) per SB 83 would prohibit all employees of any
83 state institution of higher education, including graduate students, from participating in a
84 strike; and

85
86 WHEREAS the revised section 1713.57 (B) per SB 83 would require private institutions
87 of higher education to adhere to the new requirements cited above as well, or forfeit any
88 state funds appropriated for institutional purposes; and

89
90 FINALLY WHEREAS the SB 83 proposed changes and additions to the Ohio Revised
91 Code shall apply to all state and private institutions of higher education (including The

92 Ohio State University) within the state of Ohio, and the institutions will be required to
93 adhere to the proposed changes and additions as a prerequisite for state funding.

94
95 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students finds many
96 proposed changes in SB 83 to be harmful to graduate students, and to higher education
97 as a whole, for the reasons described below.

98
99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the definition of “*controversial beliefs or policy*” is
100 broad and ambiguous, deeming certain topics the subject of political controversy and
101 others not, such as supporting the U.S. Constitution and military action against a foreign
102 power.

103
104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ambiguity of sections 3345.0217 (B) and 3345.451
105 (B) could impose unrealistic restrictions on teaching material deemed “controversial” by
106 SB 83. This could prevent instruction and productive conversation in fields of study that
107 concern this material by necessity, such as public policy and the natural and social
108 sciences.

109
110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the syllabus requirements in section 3345.029 (B) are
111 vague, and could be interpreted in a way that requires instructors to publicly distribute
112 personal information.

113
114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mandated American government or history
115 requirements in Section 3345.382 (A) for all students seeking an associate’s or bachelor’s
116 degree reduces instructor autonomy in setting relevant curriculum.

117
118 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prohibiting institutions from using diversity statements
119 or a commitment to equity or social justice in hiring, promotion, or admissions may harm
120 hiring and recruitment programs that seek to support marginalized groups in academia.

121
122 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the proposed restrictions in sections 3345.591 (B) and (E)
123 on contributions made by individuals associated with the People’s Republic of China and
124 academic relationships with institutions associated with the People’s Republic of China
125 could be interpreted to limit or entirely ban study abroad opportunities for Chinese and
126 American students, and restrict opportunities for scientific collaboration.

127
128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the addition of state university employees to the list of
129 individuals who are not permitted to strike is an inappropriate and unnecessary restriction
130 of the labor rights of these employees.

131
132 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President
133 to distribute this resolution and express both its letter and spirit to all proper leadership
134 and authorities of The Ohio State University and its partners.

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138 Approved: Yes / No

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140 Date: 7 April 2023

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jorge E. Clavo Abbass", written over a light gray rectangular background.

142

143 Jorge E. Clavo Abbass, President