

Contact: Aimee Claeys

**BOARD POLICY MANUAL REVISION - CHAPTER 1.2**

**Action Requested:** Approve, as a first and final reading, addition of the Free Speech Committee to Board of Regents Policy Manual Chapter 1.2.D – Standing Committees of the Board of Regents.

**Executive Summary:** On November 28, 2020, Board President Michael Richards established a Free Speech Committee to the Board of Regents with the following charge: evaluate the implementation of the Board’s policy, as well as best practices from other institutions, and bring any recommendations on changes that need to be made to strengthen our efforts on free speech. On February 24, 2021, the Board approved the recommendations brought by the Free Speech Committee, including establishing the Free Speech Committee as a permanent committee of the Board of Regents. Below is the proposed Free Speech Committee addition to Board Policy Manual 1.2.D.

**Proposed policy addition 1.2.D**

**Free Speech Committee.** The committee is primarily responsible for:

- i. Receiving and reviewing complaints filed under Board Policy Manual Chapter 4.2 Freedom of Expression.
- ii. Annually reviewing all free speech policies and procedures of the Board and universities to assure cross-institutional consistency and compliance with the law.
- iii. Annually reviewing university First Amendment training to assure compliance with Board policy and identify areas for improvement.
- iv. Biannually surveying all university faculty, staff, and students on First Amendment matters.
- v. Monitoring state, regional, and national strategies and best practices for fostering free expression on college and university campuses, and providing guidance to the universities on implementing those strategies.