



# The Florida House of Representatives

**Paul Renner**  
**Speaker**

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
January 12, 2023

**Media Contact:**  
[Andres.Malave@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Andres.Malave@myfloridahouse.gov)  
(850) 717-5780

## Speaker Paul Renner Demands Transparency from State Universities and Colleges

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** (January 12, 2023) — Today, Florida House Speaker Paul Renner requested documents and information from Florida’s state universities and colleges to assess the prevalence of politicized diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) offices and programs. The request extends beyond the query submitted by Florida Education Commissioner Manny Diaz and Chancellor of the State University System Ray Rodrigues on behalf of [Governor Ron DeSantis](#), to include seeking answers about the use of political considerations in the development of curriculum, hiring and promotion of faculty and other inappropriate activities. The request was delivered today to the President’s office of each respective Florida College System and State University System institution.

“Colleges and universities have an obligation to foster diversity of thought on their campuses and be good stewards of state dollars,” said Speaker Renner. “The Florida House of Representatives has a responsibility to understand how state resources are being allocated across state universities and colleges. I commend Governor DeSantis, Chancellor Rodrigues, and Commissioner Diaz for working to expose the potential misapplication of state funds, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the legislature to establish proper guardrails that ensure these institutions provide our students with an inclusive, well-rounded education that prepares them for the future without promoting an aggressively ideological agenda under the guise of diversity, equity and inclusion.

“I commend the great work of the Board of Governors in bringing our universities to a consistent number one ranking among the states as well as our state colleges for providing needed workforce skills. We will maintain our top rankings by staying focused on the knowledge, skills and research that higher education should provide. However, we compromise higher education if we follow other states that allow DEI staff to act as political commissars over campus life. We intend to end this improper influence and re-focus on pathways to success for our graduates.”

###



# **The Florida House of Representatives**

## **Office of the Speaker**

**Paul Renner**  
**Speaker**

January 12, 2023

**Via electronic mail and U.S. Mail**

Larry Robinson, Ph.D., President  
Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University  
1601 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32307  
[larry.robinson@famu.edu](mailto:larry.robinson@famu.edu)

**Re: Request for documents**

Dear President Robinson:

The Florida House of Representatives, through the Speaker of the House, requests the documents and information described below in order to assess the costs and benefits of the DEI offices and programs within the State University System. Unless otherwise indicated, the timeframe for this request is January 1, 2021 through the date of this request. Please provide the requested documents and information by February 13, 2023.

**Definitions**

The following definitions apply to these requests:

“Communications” include all written or electronic communications, including but not limited to emails, text messages, and social media messages.

“DEI” means diversity, equity, and/or inclusion.

“DEI Contractor” means a non-employee or business entity that has been engaged by, or that has received payment from, the University to provide services relating to the University’s DEI programs or initiatives.

“DEI Employee” means an employee of the University, whether full-time or part-time, who is assigned to the University’s DEI office or whose primary job duties otherwise relate directly to the University’s DEI programs or initiatives.

“DEI Faculty Committee” means a committee containing at least one faculty member that exists for the purpose of creating, developing, or proposing DEI programs or initiatives. This term includes each member of the committee.

“DEI Office” means the University’s designated DEI office, regardless of its name. If the University maintains additional offices for DEI purposes (for example, offices that independently serve different departments, schools, or colleges within the University), please provide responsive information for each independent DEI office.

“Documents” include, but are not limited to, notes, drafts, memoranda, written policies, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes.

“Faculty” includes all professors and instructors, regardless of tenure or adjunct status.

“Other DEI Employee” means an employee of the University who does not fall within the foregoing definition of “DEI Employee” but whose duties or responsibilities include liaising with the DEI Office or participating in the creation or development of DEI programs or initiatives.

“University” means the university to which this request is directed, and includes all schools, colleges, and other units of the university.

#### Requests

1. A list of all current DEI Employees and Other DEI Employees. The list should identify each person by name and job title.
2. The job description for each current DEI Employee and Other DEI Employee.
3. A list that identifies each current DEI Employee’s and Other DEI Employee’s annual salary or hourly wage, as applicable, and that separately identifies the annualized dollar amount of benefits provided to each DEI Employee and Other DEI Employee.
4. Documents sufficient to identify the specific source(s) of funds for the expenditures referenced in Request #3.
5. A copy of every contract between the University and a DEI Contractor. The timeframe for this request extends to all contracts that were in effect at any time since January 1, 2020.

6. Documents sufficient to identify the specific source(s) of funds for each contract responsive to Request #5.
7. Documents sufficient to identify the dollar amounts actually paid to each DEI Contractor in connection with each contract responsive to Request #5.
8. All documents created by the DEI Office that contain or reflect assessments, proposals, or recommendations relating to DEI.
9. All communications to or from the DEI Office (including internal communications) regarding the assessments, proposals, or recommendations referenced in Request #8.
10. All documents created by the DEI Office relating to faculty hiring, faculty compensation, faculty promotion, and tenure. The scope of this request includes, but is not limited to, documents relating to any requirement that faculty members (or applicants for faculty positions) submit a statement describing their commitment, contributions, or potential contributions to DEI.
11. All communications to or from the DEI Office (including internal communications) relating to faculty hiring, faculty compensation, faculty promotion, and tenure. The scope of this request includes, but is not limited to, communications relating to the statements described in Request #10.
12. All communications to or from the DEI Office (including internal communications) regarding curriculum content or development.
13. All communications to or from the DEI Office (including internal communications) regarding the proposed or potential discipline, censure, or termination of any faculty member.
14. All documents created by a DEI Faculty Committee that contain or reflect assessments, proposals, or recommendations relating to DEI.
15. All communications to or from a DEI Faculty Committee (including internal communications) regarding the assessments, proposals, or recommendations referenced in Request #14.
16. All communications to or from a DEI Faculty Committee (including internal communications) regarding curriculum content or development. The scope of this request excludes communications made to or from a faculty member for purposes unrelated to the faculty member's work on the DEI Faculty Committee.

January 12, 2023  
Page 4

Please address your response and any questions to the general counsel for the House of Representatives, David Axelman (David.Axelmann@myfloridahouse.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PR', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul Renner, Speaker of the House



# The Florida House of Representatives

## Office of the Speaker

**Paul Renner**  
Speaker

January 12, 2023

**Via electronic mail and U.S. Mail**

Gregory Adam Haile, Esq., President  
Broward College  
111 E. Las Olas Blvd.  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301  
[officeofthepresident@broward.edu](mailto:officeofthepresident@broward.edu)

**Re: Request for documents**

Dear President Haile:

The Florida House of Representatives, through the Speaker of the House, requests the documents and information described below in order to assess the costs and benefits of the DEI offices and programs within the State College System. Unless otherwise indicated, the timeframe for this request is January 1, 2021 through the date of this request. Please provide the requested documents and information by February 13, 2023.

**Definitions**

The following definitions apply to these requests:

“Communications” include all written or electronic communications, including but not limited to emails, text messages, and social media messages.

“DEI” means diversity, equity, and/or inclusion.

“DEI Contractor” means a non-employee or business entity that has been engaged by, or that has received payment from, the College to provide services relating to the College’s DEI programs or initiatives.

“DEI Employee” means an employee of the College, whether full-time or part-time, who is assigned to the College’s DEI office or whose primary job duties otherwise relate directly to the College’s DEI programs or initiatives.

“DEI Faculty Committee” means a committee containing at least one faculty member that exists for the purpose of creating, developing, or proposing DEI programs or initiatives. This term includes each member of the committee.

“DEI Office” means the College’s designated DEI office, regardless of its name. If the College maintains additional offices for DEI purposes (for example, offices that independently serve different departments or units within the College), please provide responsive information for each independent DEI office.

“Documents” include, but are not limited to, notes, drafts, memoranda, written policies, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes.

“Faculty” includes all professors and instructors, regardless of tenure or adjunct status.

“Other DEI Employee” means an employee of the College who does not fall within the foregoing definition of “DEI Employee” but whose duties or responsibilities include liaising with the DEI Office or participating in the creation or development of DEI programs or initiatives.

“College” means the college to which this request is directed, and includes all departments and other units of the college.

#### Requests

1. A list of all current DEI Employees and Other DEI Employees. The list should identify each person by name and job title.
2. The job description for each current DEI Employee and Other DEI Employee.
3. A list that identifies each current DEI Employee’s and Other DEI Employee’s annual salary or hourly wage, as applicable, and that separately identifies the annualized dollar amount of benefits provided to each DEI Employee and Other DEI Employee.
4. Documents sufficient to identify the specific source(s) of funds for the expenditures referenced in Request #3.
5. A copy of every contract between the College and a DEI Contractor. The timeframe for this request extends to all contracts that were in effect at any time since January 1, 2020.

6. Documents sufficient to identify the specific source(s) of funds for each contract responsive to Request #5.
7. Documents sufficient to identify the dollar amounts actually paid to each DEI Contractor in connection with each contract responsive to Request #5.
8. All documents created by the DEI Office that contain or reflect assessments, proposals, or recommendations relating to DEI.
9. All communications to or from the DEI Office (including internal communications) regarding the assessments, proposals, or recommendations referenced in Request #8.
10. All documents created by the DEI Office relating to faculty hiring, faculty compensation, faculty promotion, and tenure. The scope of this request includes, but is not limited to, documents relating to any requirement that faculty members (or applicants for faculty positions) submit a statement describing their commitment, contributions, or potential contributions to DEI.
11. All communications to or from the DEI Office (including internal communications) relating to faculty hiring, faculty compensation, faculty promotion, and tenure. The scope of this request includes, but is not limited to, communications relating to the statements described in Request #10.
12. All communications to or from the DEI Office (including internal communications) regarding curriculum content or development.
13. All communications to or from the DEI Office (including internal communications) regarding the proposed or potential discipline, censure, or termination of any faculty member.
14. All documents created by a DEI Faculty Committee that contain or reflect assessments, proposals, or recommendations relating to DEI.
15. All communications to or from a DEI Faculty Committee (including internal communications) regarding the assessments, proposals, or recommendations referenced in Request #14.
16. All communications to or from a DEI Faculty Committee (including internal communications) regarding curriculum content or development. The scope of this request excludes communications made to or from a faculty member for purposes unrelated to the faculty member's work on the DEI Faculty Committee.



January 12, 2023

Page 4

Please address your response and any questions to the general counsel for the House of Representatives, David Axelman (David.Axelman@myfloridahouse.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PR', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Paul Renner, Speaker of the House