

# Northern Arizona University

## Senate Resolution

Passed by the FSEC on February 6, 2023

Passed by the Faculty Senate on February 20, 2023

**Motion Introduced by:** Kate Ellis, Senate President, Northern Arizona University

**Title of Motion:** Resolution of the Faculty's commitment to educate, support, and empower students from all backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences <https://nau.edu/about/vision-mission/>

**Whereas**, Arizona's public university enterprise exists to provide opportunities for learning, discovery, research, public service, and economic development for Arizona residents and the global community, <https://www.azregents.edu/board/abor-strategic-plan>

**Whereas**, the role of the university is to promote an educated workforce and increase educational attainment, including the percentage of Arizonans completing college, which is vital to the state's economic future, <https://www.azregents.edu/news-releases/new-report-improved-educational-attainment-including-greater-percentage-arizonans>

**Whereas**, Arizona State demographics have become increasingly diverse. The 2020 census indicates that the Diversity Index is 61.1%, up from 54.9% in 2010. Arizona is 53.4% Non-Hispanic White, 30.7% Hispanic or Latino, 4.7% African American, 4.5% Native American, 3.6% Asian, and .2% Pacific Islander, which means our student population and our workforce are more diverse, <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/arizona-population-change-between-census-decade.html>

**Whereas**, Arizona faculty are disciplinary and pedagogical experts who are trained to teach the breadth of knowledge in a general studies educational framework. Arizona's students deserve faculty who can deliver this knowledge in ways that are responsive to the state's changing demographics, productive for Arizona communities, and supportive of an increasingly diverse workforce,

**Whereas**, an educated public includes individuals who are active contributors to society, who are engaged in civil discourse and critical thinking, who are prepared to collaborate with people across differences in race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, and language. An educated public includes those who are exposed to and tolerant of beliefs and values different from their own, and thus are prepared to become global citizens of the world,

**Therefore**, we request ABOR continue to defend the initiatives, practices, and established policies which promote the education, support, and empowerment of all students. The Faculty Senate of NAU confirms our commitment to educate, support, and empower students from all backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences; the advancement of education that is diverse in thought and perspective; equitable for each student regardless of their socio-economic background or status; and inclusive of the breadth of both the personal and historical realities of all our students. The education we provide must be stimulating, intellectually engaging, and respectful in an atmosphere that attracts, inspires, and retains students, faculty, and staff while recognizing our place in the state of Arizona, the United States of America, and the world.