

Kentucky Community and Technical College System Board of Regents

Agenda Item: KCTCS Institutional & Viewpoint Neutrality Policy

Action Question: Should the Board approve the KCTCS Institutional & Viewpoint Neutrality Policy?

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve the policy.

Relevant Legal Authority:

- House Bill 4 (2025): AN ACT relating to initiatives regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
 - **(1) No later than June 30, 2025, each governing board shall:**
 - **(a) Adopt a policy on viewpoint neutrality that prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's political or social viewpoint and promotes intellectual diversity within the institution; and**
 - **(b) Publish the amended policy in the institution's student handbook and faculty handbook and on a prominent, publicly accessible page of the institution's website.**

Background: At the May 15, 2025 Policy and Planning Committee meeting, staff briefed the Board of Regents on the requirements of House Bill 4, the steps KCTCS has taken to comply, and the actions the Board must take to meet the bill's mandates. Upon the bill's effective date of June 27, 2025, the Board of Regents must adopt a policy on viewpoint neutrality by June 30, 2025. The Board's June 12–13, 2025 meeting is the final regularly scheduled meeting before the compliance deadline.

KCTCS Institutional & Viewpoint Neutrality Policy	
Policy No: 1.6	Revision Number: 0 Revision Date: Initial Adoption 6/12/2025
Effective Date: June 12, 2025	Revision Summary: Initial Adoption
Responsible Cabinet Area: KCTCS President	References: KRS §164.2896

1. Purpose

KCTCS is committed to its mission to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the Commonwealth. To support this mission, KCTCS seeks to cultivate space for all voices within our communities. This includes supporting an environment that fosters space for learning, growth, and conversations. The KCTCS Institutional & Viewpoint Neutrality Policy ensures compliance with KRS §164.2896.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all KCTCS Colleges, departments, units, students, employees, and the Kentucky Fire Commission.

3. Policy

1. Institutional Neutrality

- 1.1. KCTCS will maintain a position of institutional neutrality regarding societal issues and events that do not directly impact or affect the mission or function of the System. On rare occasions, the System may issue a public statement about external or internal issues or events if they directly impact the System or a college's operations or ability to pursue its mission.
- 1.2. Only the KCTCS President may issue a statement on behalf of the System and only the Chair of the KCTCS Board of Regents may speak on behalf of the Board. Any statement issued will include the significance of that issue to the KCTCS community.
- 1.3. This policy does not affect a student's or employee's First Amendment rights. Nothing in this policy infringes upon the rights outlined in KCTCS Policy 3.3.15 – Campus Speech Policy.

2. Viewpoint Neutrality

- 2.1. KCTCS prohibits discrimination on the basis of an individual's political or social viewpoint.
- 2.2. KCTCS shall not require any individual to endorse or condemn a specific ideology, political viewpoint, or social viewpoint to be eligible for hiring, contract renewal, tenure, promotion, admission, or graduation.
- 2.3. Any concerns of a violation of this policy shall be reported using the KCTCS online reporting system, [EthicsPoint](#).

4. Review

This policy shall be reviewed by the KCTCS Board of Regents within a two-year period after the date of the adoption of this policy.