



Student Government Association

St. Mary's College of Maryland

St. Mary's City, Maryland, 20686

Resolution F21:03

*Supporting the Faculty Senate's Resolution on
"The Defense of Academic Freedom..."*

Sponsors: Dylan Parham, *Student Body Vice President;*

Cosponsors: Emily Rudo, *Senate Leader;* Meghan Stevens, *LQ Senator;* Dina Tuggle, *Commuter Senator;*

Community Cosponsor: Dr. Jennifer Cognard-Black, *Faculty Senate Senator;*

Whereas: The St. Mary's College of Maryland Faculty Senate introduced and passed a resolution in support of their colleagues in states where the teaching of Race, Gender Justice and Critical Race Theory is being targeted;

Whereas: State legislatures across the U.S. have introduced proposals to curtail or silence academic discussions of racism and other race and gender justice issues in classrooms across schools, colleges, and universities;

Whereas: The members of the St. Mary's College of Maryland Faculty Senate, wish to affirm that teaching about systemic barriers to realizing a multiracial democracy based on race and gender should be understood as central to the active and engaged pursuit of knowledge in the twenty-first century. They believe this is especially crucial as educators across our country work to produce engaged and informed citizens.

Whereas: The Faculty Senate has asked the Student Government Association for their support in this statement;

Be It Hereby Resolved: That Student Government Association firmly stands with the Faculty Senate's stance to reject any attempts by bodies external to the College to restrict or dictate college curriculum on any matter, including racial and social justice, and will stand firm against encroachment on faculty authority in the classroom;

Be It Hereby Further Resolved: The SGA shall adopt this stance, and this resolution shall be published, made available to St. Mary's students, faculty, and staff on the SGA social media.

St. Mary's College of Maryland Faculty Senate

Resolution to Defend Academic Freedom to Teach
Race and Gender Justice and Critical Race Theory

21 October 2021

As our Bylaws affirm the importance of academic freedom to the proper functioning of colleges and universities¹—and as state legislatures across the U.S. introduce proposals to curtail or silence academic discussions of racism and other race and gender justice issues in classrooms across schools, colleges, and universities—we, the members of the St. Mary's College of Maryland Faculty Senate, wish to affirm that teaching about systemic barriers to realizing a multiracial democracy based on race and gender should be understood as central to the active and engaged pursuit of knowledge in the twenty-first century. We believe this is especially crucial as educators across our country work to produce engaged and informed citizens.

Therefore, we, the members of the St. Mary's College of Maryland Faculty Senate, resolve to reject any attempts by bodies external to the College to restrict or dictate college curriculum on any matter, including racial and social justice, and will stand firm against encroachment on faculty authority in the classroom. We further resolve that the Faculty Senate stands with our K-12 colleagues across the country who may be affected by this pernicious legislation. Finally, we support the Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism², authored by the American Association of University Professors, PEN America, the American Historical Association, and the Association of American Colleges & Universities, issued on 16 June 2021 and endorsed by over seventy organizations.

¹Institutions of higher education, including St. Mary's College of Maryland, exist for the common good. The common good depends on the free search for truth and its free expression. Academic freedom is the freedom to discuss all relevant matters in the classroom, to explore all avenues of scholarship, research, and creative expression, and to speak or write without institutional discipline or restraint on matters of public concern as well as on matters related to professional duties and the functioning of the College. Academic responsibility implies the faithful performance of professional duties and obligations, the recognition of the demands of the academic enterprise, and the candor to make it clear that when one is speaking on matters of public interest, one is not speaking for the institution. All faculty

members must maintain their professional competence and their ability to display it in their lectures, performances, publications and exhibitions.”

² <https://www.aaup.org/news/joint-statement-efforts-restrict-education-about-racism#.YXA2IdnMJ0J>