

In regard to HB 1446, it seems to me to be incredibly shortsighted and lacking any thought as to what the unintended consequences of its passing may be. The requirement that tenured faculty generate revenue equal or greater to their cost or risk losing their tenure status does not take into account valuable classes, particularly upper level course, and programs that may have smaller enrollment. Nor does it take into account how much time and effort actually goes into the recruitment and advising processes. However, the most concerning part of this bill is the incredibly vague language throughout, especially the portions that state “exercising mature judgement to avoid inadvertently harming the institution, especially in avoiding the use of social media or third-party internet platforms to disparage campus personnel or the institution”, and “A review under this section is not appealable or reviewable by a faculty member or faculty committee. The president is subject to review and assessment by the state commissioner of higher education and the state board of higher education for the reviews the president conducts under this section.” as well as “The president and any administrators delegated to assist the president shall fulfill these duties without fear of reprisal or retaliation. No complaint, lawsuit, or other allegation is allowed against a president or other administrator for actions taken pursuant to these provisions.” Who determines what is harmful or disparaging to the institution? This bill grants far too much power to the university president and leads to a slippery slope in which tenure can be revoked for merely expressing an opinion that runs counter to the university’s current administration. Furthermore, in order to attract high quality students and keep enrollment in our universities high, we need high quality faculty at our institutions. The proposed bill will make it harder to attract and retain the faculty our institutions need and our students deserve. I strongly recommend not passing this bill.