RESOLUTION

Be it resolved, that we, the officers and members of the Florida Conference of Historians, meeting at Punta Gorda, Florida, March 10-12, 2017, hereby issue the following statement:

1. As teachers of American History, World History, and Western Civilization, we are vitally concerned at decreasing enrollment in college and university level history classes and what that portends for the future of informed civic engagement.

2. We believe that the main cause of this decrease is the lack of a history and civics core requirement for graduation in Florida’s General Education Standards. The current six course Social Science core only contains one history course so students may graduate without taking history unless their college mandates a history course. Currently, only seven state colleges require a history course. History is optional at the other twenty-one.

3. We support and welcome the introduction of House Bill 7057 and Senate Bill 1710 during the 2017 legislative session, which seek to increase civic literacy among college and university students by one of the following requirements for graduation yet to be determined:

a. Passing of a civics competency test,

b. Passing of a newly-created civics course,

c. Passing of a revised existing course in history, government, political science or related field.

4. While we believe that any new or existing course seeking to increase civic literacy among college and university students must, by definition, be heavily weighted toward the cultural, social, and legal history of the United States and the world, we believe that such a course will not entirely compensate for the lack of a core history requirement for graduation.

Therefore, we the members of the Florida Conference of Historians, meeting this day,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017, do formally request that the Florida Legislature revisit its 2012 revision of the Florida General Education standards and mandate that each college and university require students to successfully complete a minimum of three hours in American History, World History, Western Civilization prior to graduation.

Approved, this date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

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