

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by the Committee**  
**DEI**  
**Thursday, January 23, 2025**  
**4:00 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Boise, Idaho**

Members in attendance: Cochairs Senator Todd Lakey and Representative Judy Boyle; Representatives Barbara Ehardt, Elaine Price, and Dale Hawkins (late arrival); Senators Julie VanOrden, Ben Toews, and Melissa Wintrow. Legislative Services Office (LSO) staff Peter Cook, Jennifer Kish, and Kevin Campbell.

Others in attendance: Lorraine Draper and Jacob Ballard - BSU.

NOTE: Presentations and handouts provided by the presenters/speakers are posted to the Idaho Legislature's website <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2024/interim/> and copies of those items are on file at the Legislative Services Office in the State Capitol. Recordings of the meeting may be available under the committee's listing on the website.

**OPENING REMARKS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At 4:08 p.m., Cochair Lakey called the meeting to order and requested a silent roll call be taken. He asked for a motion on the January 9, 2025, minutes. **Sen. VanOrden made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Cochair Boyle; motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.**

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Cochair Lakey called upon Senator Toews to present his [proposed legislation](#). Senator Toews reviewed the proposed legislation explaining where changes had been made from the previously introduced version.

- Rep. Ehardt inquired about funds from private donors becoming state funds when donated to higher education institutions. Sen. Toews explained that funds could not be pushed into generalized areas.
- Sen. Wintrow inquired, per the limits of this legislation, what topics were permissible in teaching diversity. Sen. Toews responded that classes could be offered on the topic but could not be required. Sen. Wintrow expressed concern that a prohibited topic may come up in class and wondered how that would be handled. Sen. Toews responded that the proposed legislation did not prohibit the debate of certain topics but rather it prohibited the requirement of a class to be taken that focused on certain topics. Cochair Lakey commented that it fell to university leadership to enforce the legislation, and then of course there existed avenues for appeal. Sen. Wintrow opined that the proposed legislation was an over reach of government on one's freedom of speech and expressed concern that government could decide what was appropriate speech.
- Rep. Ehardt asked whether the harm came from the topic being taught or whether the harm came from silencing a student in expressing their opinion on the topic. Sen. Toews commented that he hoped this legislation would force institutions of higher education to evaluate their purpose: was it to present certain ideologies that influence social change or was it to be a place where different ideologies can be discussed in order to broaden awareness.
- Cochair Lakey asked the members for any recommended action on the proposed legislation. **Cochair Boyle made a motion to recommend to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Pro Temp that the proposed legislation be submitted to the appropriate germane committee of each chamber; Rep. Ehardt seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a voice vote, with Sen. Wintrow voting NAY.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.