



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESOLUTION

Number: RO2-5

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Constitution of State of Florida

Date: October 25, 2002

The University of Florida Board of Trustees hereby resolves:

- (1) That it opposes proposed amendment 9 to the Constitution of the State of Florida regarding public school class size. There is not sufficient evidence to demonstrate that reduction in class size significantly improves the quality of public school education for our children, in part because of the inability to accurately measure the positive effects of mandated class size limits. Further, the budget estimates for implementing such a mandate predict serious negative consequences to the State of Florida budget. The expenditures necessary to meet such a mandate necessarily would detrimentally affect the ability of the State of Florida to deliver other important public programs to its citizens, including a quality system of public higher education. Because there is not a sufficient number of certified teachers available to meet the demands the mandate would impose, it would be necessary to expand the number of uncertified teachers in the classroom. Finally, constitutionally mandated class size would significantly reduce the variety of choices that public school educators should have to improve the state's public school system.

- (2) That it opposes proposed amendment 11 to the Constitution of the State of Florida regarding public higher education governance. Passage of amendment 11 would damage significant gains in the effective, more streamlined governance of the state's public higher education system. Further, the implementation of another new governance system at this time is premature and would cause disruption to the improved systems, operations, and practices that now have been put in place as a result of the School Code Rewrite. Finally, there is no assurance that proposed amendment 11 will eliminate the problems the amendment's sincere advocates seek to correct, such as inappropriate political interference with the higher education legislative appropriations process. Instead, the Board of Trustees commits to work with the Legislature and others to try to correct these problems within the existing governance system.

The Board of Trustees does not issue this Resolution lightly. It is issued after carefully considering the relative merits and detriments of each proposed constitutional amendment. The Board fully supports a high quality public education system for the State of Florida. As a part of that public education system, the Board has a responsibility to speak on these proposed amendments. In its objective judgment, the University of Florida Board of Trustees believes the proposed amendments are not beneficial for the State of Florida's public education system, for the University of Florida, or for the citizens of the State of Florida.