

Office of the President
September 12, 2025

Members of the Board of Trustees:

NOTICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND INSTITUTIONAL POLICY INFORMATION

Recommendation: that the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees formally acknowledge the University's compliance with Senate Joint Resolution 55 (SJR 55ⁱ), signed by Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear in April 2025, which directs institutions of higher education to provide students with annual information about their rights under federal civil rights law and applicable institutional policies.

Background: SJR 55 affirms the responsibilities of Kentucky's public colleges and universities under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and requires institutions to ensure students are informed of their protections. In accordance with this directive, the University of Kentucky will provide annual communication to all students beginning September 8, 2025, and continuing through at least 2028.

The communication will include information about the following rights:

- Freedom from discrimination: Students may not be discriminated against in any program or activity receiving federal funds based on race, color or national origin. This protection explicitly includes antisemitic discrimination when based on race, color or national origin, consistent with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition.
- Protection against harassment: The University must address and prevent racial or national origin harassment that creates a hostile environment.
- Equal access to programs and resources: All students should have equal access to benefits and services, regardless of race, color or national origin.
- Protection against retaliation: Students are protected from retaliation for filing a complaint, testifying or assisting in an investigation under Title VI.

The notice also provides instructions for filing reports with the Office of Equal Opportunity and references protections available under Kentucky law (KRS 344.450), which allows individuals injured by discrimination to seek relief and damages. The University's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment, applicable to both students and employees, is also highlighted.

Specific Action: The Board of Trustees acknowledges that the University of Kentucky will implement the requirements of SJR 55 by distributing the required information to students annually, beginning on September 8, 2025, through official University channels.

ⁱ See, e.g., [SJR § 55](#)

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____