

MISSION CONTROL: BOARD BRIEFING

The Financial Future of Higher Education Federal Funding

SITUATION REPORT:

On April 4, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court (5–4) lifted a temporary block, permitting the current administration to withhold over \$600 million in federal teacher training grants supporting teacher recruitment in underserved areas, while legal challenges continue. The ruling does not resolve whether the administration can permanently terminate the funding but allows cuts during ongoing litigation. This decision could lead to budget gaps and increased uncertainty for institutions dependent on federal teacher training support and other funding tied to DEI initiatives.

MISSION CONTROL: BOARD DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do our DEI programs align with our institutional mission and strategic goals?
2. What federal funding are we currently receiving—and where are we most vulnerable?
3. Are we audit-ready if the Department of Education reviews our practices?
4. What are the potential impacts of revising, defending, or eliminating key programs?
5. What action steps can we take now—to maintain compliance and uphold our values?



ACTIONABLE STEPS:



- **Conduct a Comprehensive Audit:** Review all DEI-related programs and associated funding sources to identify areas of risk and ensure compliance.
- **Engage Legal Counsel:** Seek expert legal advice to navigate the complexities of the new regulatory landscape.
- **Communicate with Stakeholders:** Maintain transparent communication with community members about the institution's stance and actions regarding DEI initiatives.
- **Monitor Legal and Policy Developments:** Stay abreast of ongoing legal proceedings and policy changes to adapt strategies proactively.
- **Additional Steps:** Convene cross-functional leadership to plan policy responses. Review board-level equity and mission statements.