

HB 213 -- INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY IN PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION
(Cunningham, 86)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Higher Education

This bill establishes the Emily Brooker Intellectual Diversity Act, which defines intellectual diversity for reporting purposes at public higher education institutions. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education will require, as of December 31, 2008, an annual report describing steps taken by each institution to ensure intellectual diversity, which must be posted on the institution's web site. The list of possible steps, which is not mandatory, includes incorporating intellectual diversity, such as race and gender, into admissions and hiring criteria; ensuring religious freedom is protected in teaching and program development guidelines; asking about intellectual diversity on student course evaluations; and permitting diversity complaints to be filed directly with the governing board. Students must be notified that measures are in place to promote intellectual diversity and how to report alleged violations of institutional policy.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.