

## **RESOLUTION ASA14- 25**

### **PLAN TO OFFER AMERICAN CIVIC LITERACY COURSES**

WHEREAS, the 136<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly enacted the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act which was signed into law on March 28, 2025, and includes among its provisions Ohio Revised Code 3345.382; and

WHEREAS, ORC 3345.382 requires that beginning with the spring semester of the 2029-2030 academic year, no state institution of higher education shall grant a baccalaureate degree to any student who has not completed an American Civic Literacy (ACL) course; and

WHEREAS, the ACL course shall, at a minimum, require each student to read and pass a cumulative final examination at the conclusion of the course that assesses student proficiency on all of the following documents:

- (1) The entire Constitution of the United States;
- (2) The entire Declaration of Independence;
- (3) A minimum of five (5) essays in their entirety from the Federalist Papers. The essays shall be selected by the department chair.
- (4) The entire Emancipation Proclamation;
- (5) The entire Gettysburg Address;
- (6) The entire Letter from Birmingham Jail written by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- (7) The writings of Adam Smith, including a study of the principles written in *The Wealth of Nations*; and

WHEREAS, each state institution of higher education board of trustees is required to adopt a resolution approving a plan to offer the ACL course and submit that plan to the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education for review and approval no later than September 25, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the President of Shawnee State University, or the President's designee, may exempt a student who petitions to graduate from the requirement to complete an approved ACL course, if the President, or President's designee, determines the student has completed a course in alignment with Division (D) of ORC 3345.382; and

WHEREAS, the President has designated the University Registrar to make determination on requests for exemption from this graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS, any student requesting exemption shall complete a written request that includes the detailed course syllabus of the course completed that the student seeks to substitute for the ACL course requirement; and

WHEREAS, the written request must be submitted at the time of petition to graduate; and

WHEREAS, exemptions using Division (D)(3) of ORC 3345.382 will not be granted after the completion of the 2030-2031 academic year;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Shawnee State University hereby approves the plan to offer American Civic Literacy Courses in accordance with ORC 3345.382, including the exemption framework set forth above; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the ACL plan shall be submitted to the Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education for the Chancellor's approval, and should the Chancellor require revisions to the plan, the Provost is directed to make revisions as needed to obtain approval.

(September 19, 2025)