

DeepAudit Analyzes Florida University's Vice-Provost Candidates

Tallahassee may be alarmed at the DEI candidates that advanced through the process.

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Florida Gulf Coast University, a 15,000-student member of the State University System of Florida, recently hired a new provost and is in the process of hiring a Vice President and Vice Provost. The final decision [was scheduled](#) to be made on February 25th, 2025, but it seems that a new vice provost has yet to be hired, so we thought we would analyze the [publicly available](#) CVs and cover letters.

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) is one of twelve universities in the State University System of Florida, a state that has in many ways led the national effort to remove ideological extremism from publicly funded institutions. Governor DeSantis and the legislature have made it abundantly clear for years that they have no interest in taxpayer-supported DEI, CRT, and other far-left indoctrination programs.

Of the five candidates that made it to the final round of FGCU's vice provost search, several have made overt commitments to DEI and related ideologies.

Here's how the DeepAudit agent ranked each candidate's demonstrated commitment to DEI (from most to least):

1. Trung Nguyen, Ed.D. (Most explicit and consistently strong focus throughout his materials.)
2. Blake J. Renner, Ed.D. (Demonstrated commitment to equity, inclusion, and support for diverse student populations with relevant past experience.)
3. Stephen P. Schultheis, Ed.D. (Established concrete initiatives in this area, demonstrating significant progress with DEI.)
4. Paul J. Dosal, Ph.D. (Demonstrated some commitment to DEI.)
5. Abeer Ali Mustafa, EdD., MBA, MLS

In its detailed analysis, the agent concluded about Nguyen: "The strong focus and explicit mention of DEI throughout the materials provide a robust picture of his commitment." For Renner, the agent concluded that "Renner has demonstrated a commitment to DEI through his

experiences at various institutions.” Mustafa demonstrated little to no support of DEI in her submitted materials.

“Nguyen’s lack of situational awareness is curious,” said Jonah Davids, DeepAudit Director of Research. “He’s applying for a high-profile job in a state that led the charge against DEI. He seems completely unaware of any of this.”

“But stranger still is how a candidate whose experience is so antithetical to the taxpayers of Florida got so far in the candidate review process,” commented Leif Rasmussen, Director of Data Science at DeepAudit. “Nguyen doesn’t seem to know much about the priorities of leadership in Tallahassee, but neither does this search committee. And with a little further research, one would find DEI all over Nguyen’s LinkedIn profile.”

On LinkedIn, Nguyen’s top listed skill is “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB),” to which LinkedIn notes that he has “5 experiences across University at Buffalo and 1 other company.”

As far as the other candidates go, Rasmussen observed that “several of them weren’t much better, but Dosal has little DEI in his materials and Mustafa essentially has none. I can see how those two advanced. But Nguyen is a total mystery. I can only assume that the search committee thinks that Tallahassee won’t notice.”

The report on the five candidates can be found [here](#).

DeepAudit, a nonprofit research organization, revolutionizes institutional analysis with advanced machine learning technology, equipping leaders, activists, and stakeholders with the intelligence they need to hold institutions accountable and comply with state and federal mandates.

DeepAudit offers a fast and cost-effective solution to uncover evidence of ideological trends, policies, and practices that undermine core institutional missions. It does so by analyzing vast datasets, including meeting minutes, grants, education materials, and policies, to deliver actionable intelligence to leaders, activists, and journalists.

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