EVENT OUTLINE FOR SESSION F137--The Impact of Denying DEI

1) The Impact of Denying DEI

2) This panel explores the impacts of legislative restrictions on academic freedom by sharing productive classroom assignments that encourage critical/creative thinking and writing in various genre amidst a hostile environment. One panelist recounts the impact of incorporating anti-DEI legislation into the classroom. Another's intro students selected a controversial work to study/discuss, regardless of perceived threats. The third panelist considers the dangers of policing creative expressions.

3) Pedagogy

4) Cecilia Rodríguez Milanés, organizer

5) Cecilia Rodríguez Milanés, moderator

6) Participants: Cecilia Rodríguez Milanés, Fayeza Hasanat, and Kevin Meehan—Cecilia Rodríguez Milanés is the author of two short story collections--*Oye What I’m Gonna Tell You* and *Marielitos, Balseros and Other Exiles*, as well as *Everyday Chica*, the 2010 Longleaf Press Poetry Prize. She teaches literature, writing, and digital storytelling at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Fayeza Hasanat is an author, translator, and an educator at the University of Central Florida. Her academic books and translation works are published internationally. *The Bird Catcher and Other Stories*, her debut short story collection, came out in 2018 from the Jaded Ibis Press.

Kevin Meehan is an author, translator, and educator teaching Caribbean and Multi-Ethnic US Lit, literary translation, and environmental literature. He was awarded the 2022 Anne Frydman Translation Prize from *The Hopkins Review* for an excerpt of Marie Léticée’s novel *Camille’s Lakou*. 
Statement of value (from proposal):

How do we teach and encourage writing in any restrictive academic environment when topics such gender, race, ethnicity, classism, identity, diversity, and other social justice issues are banned? How do teachers accommodate the needs of our students to authentically express themselves without breaking laws that could cost us our jobs? When students and faculty are denied the ability to address diversity, equity, and inclusivity, creative activity is stifled, and their full humanity is at stake.

Agenda (from proposal):

The moderator will begin the event by contextualizing the anti-DEI environment in a public university by sharing excerpts of the most alarming legislation. Then the moderator will introduce the panelists by reading their short biographies. Panelists will present and comment on their creative/critical writing pedagogy in light of laws geared toward suppressing academic freedom for twenty minutes each. The moderator will then invite discussion and Q&A from the audience.

AV Statement (from proposal):

Panelists will require a projector to highlight anti-DEI legislation, present a variety of assignments, and share some student responses with the audience. A projector and access to the internet makes this possible.