

NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER: LEFTIST DOMINANCE CONTINUES AT NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM.

BACKGROUND. At the end of the 2023 NE legislative session, the Governor and state senators still had not passed one legislative proposal to curtail wanton spending and leftwing activism on NE university campuses. Campuses continue to seethe with leftwing totalitarianism. However, senators did appropriate millions more in revenue, a 2.5% increase, to continue university programs and classes.

BAD READING. The University Press proudly published Gendering Radicalism: Women and Communism in 20th Century California, a volume in the Women in the West Series. Our tax \$\$ at work.

UN-O POLITICAL SCENE. As of 2021, UN-O included only 1 conservative student group and 9 leftist ones. Conservative organization: Maverick Students for Life. Leftist organizations: Association of Blacks and Browns in Criminal Justice, College Democrats at UN-O, Justice and Liberation Coalition, Midland Sexual Health and Student Union, National Gay Pilots Association UNO Mavericks chapter, Queer & Trans Services, Reimagining U, Teacher Education Diversity Organization, and Urban Abbey.¹ In the 2020 election cycle, examining UN-O employee political contributions, 95.4% went to Democrat candidates in federal elections, only 3.4% to GOP candidates.²

MUZZLED FREE SPEECH. According to the Foundation for Individual Rights & Expression (FIRE) free speech monitor, UN-O received a yellow light speech code, meaning the university administration too easily permits administrative abuse and arbitrariness towards conservative students. In its 2023 College Free Speech Rankings, only 38% of UN-L students believed that shouting down a speaker to prevent him from speaking on campus is never acceptable. Only 41% of students stated that they rarely or never used self-censorship on campus to avoid controversy. Only 36% of students said they were not worried about repercussions from something they said or did that was politically controversial. "If I say anything remotely Republican or Conservative, outside of those with my same views, I know I will be yelled at and ridiculed," stated one student graduating in 2024.



HARASSING PROFESSORS. One UN-L professor listed conservative students on his personal blog and Twitter account, intimating that future employers should not hire these young conservatives. He also attacked a Catholic religious group on campus for suing the U. over barring a conservative religious campus speaker. NE taxpayers are paying his salary while he endures no university censure.

CAMPUS FUN. In March, UN-L invited Bob the Drag Queen to campus for an event for the U. and public. This individual is in the HBO series "We're Hear," which follows 3 drag queens across rural America, spreading love. He is going to Nashville to protest traditional values laws passed there and promote the queer community.³

TATTLE TALE. Our university system has a tattle tale system called TIPS for reporting alleged bias incidents, things that supposedly upset the culture or climate of the campuses, even though such incidents do not violate university policies or student code of conduct. Tattling apparently covers assumed core values and beliefs, incidents that discriminate, stereotype, exclude, or harass a student. The Asst.-Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and leader of the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards declared, "We want everyone to know that the university takes these matters seriously and that it is extremely important to address incidents that do not align with the values of the institution."⁴ Now, a conservative student who unintentionally offends a lefty can find him- or herself hauled before the Office of Student Conduct and issued a severe punishment. The university campuses supposedly believe in our 1st Amendment rights and encourage the civil and respectful expression of ideas and opinions. However, this troubling trend allows leftist faculty and students to punish conservatives for specious reasons. Students who have faithfully followed university written policies still could face sanctions, if someone believes that their words or actions on campus offend them. The Left can silence conservatives with a simple accusation based not on contestable evidence but only on the basis of subjective feelings. Parents may not want their kids to attend a university in our state, where students can find themselves in big

¹ Kate Anderson, Campus Reform, Campus Profile: University of Nebraska Omaha, 9-17-2021.

² Open Secrets, 2020.

³ The New Guard. UN-L Invites Bob the Drag Queen to Campus, March 27, 2023.

⁴ Source: <https://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/gradstudies/11992/69805>.

trouble after a member of a federally-designated victim class accuses them of making them feel uncomfortable.⁵ The current decline in enrollment probably caused by the political climate on campus.

ILLEGALS WELCOME. Illegal aliens, if graduating from a NE high school, are eligible for in-state college tuition, yet military veterans from surrounding states not eligible for this perk. Illegals can apply for and receive campus scholarships and grants.

CRITICAL RACE THEORY, ETC. UN-L contracted with a company to complete a diversity analysis, a diversity benchmarking and diversity mapping for the campus. Since 2019, the UN-L State of Diversity has featured historical data, reporting, and updates on initiatives to inform and engage the campus community on CRT trends and issues. With updates delivered by the V.-Chancellor of Diversity & Inclusion and featuring national CRT leaders who share their expertise and pathways forward for CRT excellence at UN-L, the State of Diversity is open to all personnel on campus.⁶ There exist multiple offices and administrators with responsibilities for CRT in order to engage administrators on the perception of CRT progress and opportunity during retreat sessions. These retreats discuss campus climate, diversity and higher education research, strategic planning, and need for future action. Participants also discuss UN-L becoming an equity-minded institution. The Chancellor's Diversity Council appeared in 2014 to provide the chancellor and his leadership team with input and guidance on crucial issues of diversity and inclusion. The Council attempts to communicate with many individuals and organizations on campus and the local community. It created the website diversity.unl.edu as a central place to offer information and events. The Council also serves as a contact on global warming issues. 3 Chancellor diversity commissions serve as a voice for faculty, staff, and students. Each develops policies, CRT programs, and fosters inclusiveness among different groups. The Chancellor Comm. on the Status of Women examines and proposes family policies. The Chancellor Comm. on the Status of Gender & Sexual Identity hosted a welcome gala for LGBTQA+ faculty and students. All these commissions individually and collectively find opportunities to address institutional gaps in CRT and rectify them.

THE SOLUTION. Nebraska state senators and university regents should follow the exemplary example of Gov. Ron DeSantis (Fla.). He signed into law a bill banning state funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at Florida state universities. As an example, a new New College board of regents abolished the college DEI office, and the new U. president fired the diversity dean, who is transgender. At New College, leftist professors denied early tenure. DeSantis has harshly criticized a campus culture that focuses too much on racial, gender, and sex equity. The law requires U. officials to review class lessons based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, and privilege are inherent in our



institutions, created to unreasonably maintain social, political, and economic inequalities. DeSantis believes that DEI means discrimination, exclusion, and indoctrination, a means to impose a leftist ideological agenda. 2 additional Florida laws prohibit state colleges from forcing students, faculty, or staff to sign DEI pledges.

TAKE ACTION NOW. The UN-L chancellor is proposing a major budget reduction to help ease a budget deficit of more than \$23 million. Using the content above, lobby your NE university regent to eliminate the tenure system, allowing the more easily firing of subversive leftist faculty, and to prohibit the teaching and use of materials to promote Critical Race Theory. Urge regents to work with state senators to eliminate classes and course work that violate traditional family values, also to extinguish rules and regulations that permit harassment of conservative students and staff, so that these individuals can concentrate on their studies and careers without worrying about leftwing harassment and discrimination. Urge regent-senator cooperation to end wasteful U. spending. Follow the example of Gov. Ron DeSantis. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for U. regent contact information and join our NTF *University Watch Project*.

Research, documentation, and analysis for this issue paper done by **Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom**. This material copyrighted by Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom, with express prior permission granted for its use by other groups in the *NE Conservative Coalition Network*. 5-23. C



⁵ Rod Dreher, Woke Nebraska. [A sign that the university in Lincoln is becoming a progressive madrasa](#), Nov. 11, 2020.

⁶ <https://diversity.unl.edu/state-diversity>.