



SILENCING THE “WOKE” MOB

CSGS 2024 Annual Meeting, Greenville, SC

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BECOMING A MUTUALLY OFFENSIVE OFFENDER IN GRAD ED?

- The **1st Amendment** remains under attack from political and local community organizations on both the right and left, and **professional educators remain caught in the crosshairs.**
- Multiple states have passed **laws limiting**, and in some cases, attempting to do away with **academic freedom, tenure, and higher education accreditation.**
- **How are academic administrators navigating the turbulent waters of ‘appropriate’ public communication while leading faculty and students toward academic achievements and better understanding?**
- **Can higher education still be seen as the ‘expert’ and a contributor to ‘the public good?’**

UNG



Duke

**STRATEGIES TO
EMPOWER GRADUATE
STUDENTS TO BE
LEADERS WHO BOTH
EXERCISE THEIR OWN 1ST
AMENDMENT RIGHTS
AND PROTECT THE
RIGHTS OF OTHERS.**



Today, we propose:



CONVERSATION



ENGAGEMENT



“HUMBLE” LISTENING

GOVERNMENT ACTION MEANT TO CURB HIGHER EDUCATION

Troy M. Terry, Ph.D



At the National Level

In November 2023:

- Presidents of Penn, Harvard and MIT appear before house committee on education and the workforce
- The three are grilled by Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY) re: purported antisemitism on campus
- Large donors threaten to pull support from the schools
- Gay (Harvard) and Magill (Penn) forced to resign
- Stefanik (and others) publicly celebrate a victory
- Lesson learned: even “elite” private institutions are not beyond reach



Georgia

As of September 2023

- Kemp Vetoed House Bill 319
- Kemp Vetoed House Bill 249
- Protect Students First Act (Act 719, 2022) included “Parents Bill of Rights” and SB 226



Florida



Individual Freedom Act (“Stop Woke Act” 2022)



Tenure Review (2021)



New College of Florida – All new Board of Trustees appointed (2022)





In 20223 – Texas legislators included \$700 million in extra state funding for Texas' public universities but only if they abided by two new statutes:



1

Senate Bill 17-
Banned DEI in
Texas IHE

2

Senate Bill 18 –
Overhauled tenure
processes at Texas
Public IHE





California (Stanford)

In March 2021:

- Federalist Society invites Judge S. Kyle Duncan to Speak
- Afterward, Duncan's op-ed in Wall Street Journal
- Tirien Steinbach publishes own op-ed
- Stanford issues a written apology to Judge following day
- Dean of Law school met by mob following day
- Associate Dean for DEI steps down a few months later



PREPARING OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS TO SPEAK AND HEAR DISSENTING VOICES

Suzanne Barbour, Ph.D



HOW DO WE RESPOND AND PREPARE OUR STUDENTS TO RESPOND?



- These attacks are unlikely to stop in the near future, at least not in the south. It is likely that the **upcoming presidential election will only add fuel to the divisive fires** that are burning in our region and on our campuses.
- **In the face of this, how do we respond?**



KEY QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



1. How do we encourage our students to use their voices to exercise their first amendment rights?
2. How do we encourage our students to seek out the voices and opinions of others and to listen respectfully, even when they disagree with expressed opinions?
3. What steps can we take during our students' graduate training to encourage them to continue to engage throughout their lives and careers after they leave graduate school?
4. Does your campus have strategies to promote conversation, engagement and “humble listening” around divisive issues?
5. Are there collective actions we can take as graduate deans in the southern region to promote a “civil” approach to conversation and engagement around controversial issues?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

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