

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS



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University and college presidents in Oregon should assure the public and members of their campus communities that all speakers who are invited to campus have a right to be heard, the Oregon Association of Scholars said today.

“Recent events in Oregon and around the country show that intolerant student groups are being allowed to muzzle free speech and impose their own ideological preferences on the campus community,” said Dr. Bruce Gilley, president of the OAS and a Professor of Political Science at Portland State University. “At a time when Oregon’s university and college presidents have been explicitly aligning themselves with the ideological principles of some student and faculty groups, it is incumbent on them to uphold the most important principle of all in any educational environment: the principle of free inquiry.”

Gilley was commenting after recent events at New York University and the University of California at Berkeley where invited speakers were bullied off campus and physically assaulted by radical student groups.

“It is not enough for college and university presidents in Oregon to express concern about such events after they happen when their own statements have made such incidents more likely in the first place,” said Gilley, noting how radical student groups muzzled and bullied a speaker at Reed College last year. “Elected representatives in Oregon and at the federal level should withhold taxpayer funds from universities in our state that do not protect and support campus freedoms.”

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