

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS



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The declining political diversity of Oregon colleges and universities represents a serious threat to the quality of higher education in the state, the Oregon Association of Scholars said today.

“Recent events and data show that Oregon colleges and universities have become rarified places of limited political diversity,” said Dr. Bruce Gilley, president of the OAS and a Professor of Political Science at Portland State University. “This constrains our ability as scholars to prepare students for the complex and plural world in which they will operate.”

Gilley was commenting on a newly-released ranking of political diversity at the nation’s 150 top research universities by the Heterodox Academy, a national association of 300 tenured and tenure-track professors. The University of Oregon was tied for dead last with the University of Missouri at Columbia. The report cited the University of Oregon’s censorship of free speech on campus, the micromanaging of student behavior, and the lack of a stated commitment to the University of Chicago’s widely-endorsed principles of academic freedom.

As further evidence, at a November 16 meeting of the University of Oregon’s senate, faculty rejected a proposed amendment to a resolution on “Respect for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” that would have clarified that the resolution applied to all students “regardless of which candidates or measures they supported or opposed in the recent election.”

“The defeat of the amendment shows that ‘inclusion’ at the University of Oregon applies only to those with certain political viewpoints,” noted Gilley. “This open hostility to a diversity of viewpoints undermines the purpose of higher education itself.”

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