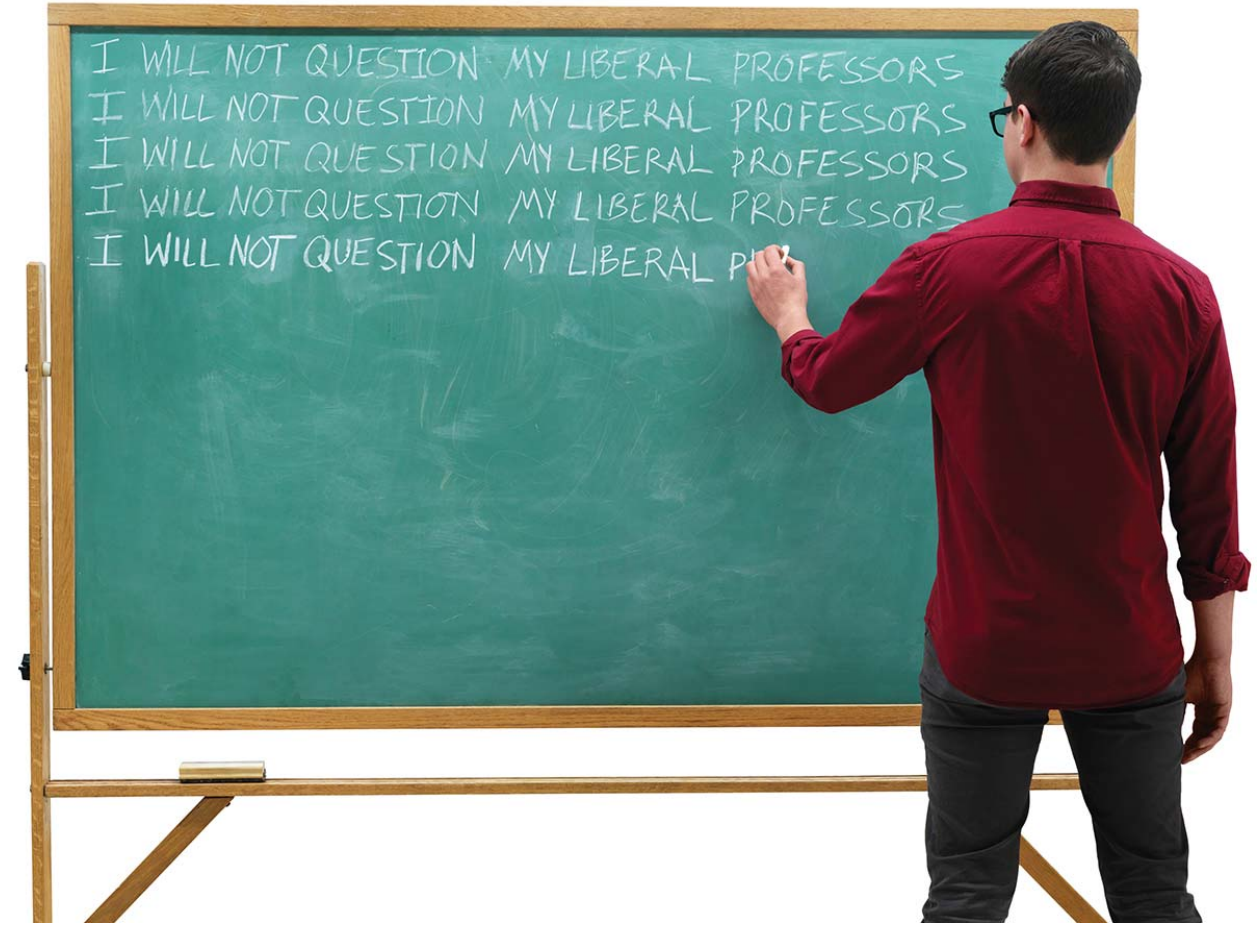


OREGON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS



Is Reed College the Most Intolerant Liberal Arts College in America?



The [Heterodox Academy](#) is currently compiling a ranking of viewpoint diversity among liberal arts colleges in the United States and we will not be surprised to learn that Reed College in Portland is among the least diverse and most liberally intolerant institutions in the country. In instance after instance over the past decade, Reed College has shown itself to have the most biased student population and faculty known in the state (which is saying something in Oregon). In November 2016, a film director was harried off campus by “trans-gender” student activists in

an appalling act of intellectual and physical bullying. The Dean of Faculty, Nigel Nicholson, [wrote](#) in the college newspaper that he was “deeply embarrassed and ashamed” by the incident.

Yet Reed College is mainly to blame for the incident since it is so deeply engaged in the priming of social identity and victimization that plagues higher education today. Reed makes no attempts, apparently, to build a truly intellectually diverse faculty and student body, preferring instead to identify itself as a “progressive”, that is to say left-wing, college. Of course, the de facto homogenization of higher education along left-wing lines in the country is well-documented. But for a college to institutionalize an ideological bias makes little sense for those who still believe that truth-seeking and intellectual pluralism are bedrock principles of education and citizenship.

Reed faculty are promoted based heavily on student evaluations and given that the college self-selects radically biased student population, there is no incentive for faculty to challenge students in the classroom or by inviting moderate or conservative speakers to campus. If Dean Nicholson were sincere about his concerns, he would take actions to remedy this.