

Press Release
Professor Watch Protest

On December 21, as many as twenty-five Trinity University faculty seek to have themselves reported to a website designed to expose and list professors who advance leftist propaganda in the classroom. In protest of the Professor Watchlist project, these tenured Trinity faculty have asked Trinity undergraduate students to report them as a statement of academic freedom and in support of colleagues listed on the site. Although faculty at many institutions have voiced their objections to the Watchlist, these Trinity faculty are among the first to encourage their own students to report them.

Efforts like those initiated by Turning Point USA reignite old concerns about McCarthyism and censorship and also highlight the importance of the tenure process, designed to protect the pursuit of **all** dimensions of thought. These Trinity faculty aim to send the message that they will not be scared into censoring classroom dialogue. More importantly, they will not be coerced into changing one of their primary charges: to challenge students to critically evaluate their sources of information, their biases, and their misconceptions.

These Trinity faculty recognize that this act may send the unintended message that they do not value the perspective of more conservative-minded students - this is not the case. As at most universities, Trinity professors rely on, encourage, and expect a diversity of views to maintain rich discussions in the classroom; they do not want classrooms full of students who all think and learn alike. Faculty around the world devote their careers to the critical evaluation of assumptions that underlie all aspects of daily life. Most pertinent to this protest is a belief that independence of thought and freedom of expression are at the core of higher education and a free society.

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