

From: Helen Moore [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Paul Kenney
Subject: Fwd: Critical Race Theory Resolution

Non-NU Email

From: Helen Moore [Redacted]

Date: Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 1:54 PM

Subject: Critical Race Theory Resolution

To: Office of the President <president@nebraska.edu>, <rgreen@unl.edu>, <pkenney@nebraska.edu>

Dear Chairman Kenney, President Carter, and Chancellor Green,

I am writing to you today to express my concern over Regent Pillen's proposed resolution concerning Critical Race Theory. Attempting to limit for political reasons what material faculty can or cannot teach is a gross violation of the principles of academic freedom and a violation of the Board of Regent Bylaws.

You will also narrow our capacity for NU to recruit faculty, graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and undergraduates who want to include CRT among the frameworks they use to understand history, law and political policy, society, religion, economy, literatures, art and many other disciplines. This violates our land grant mission to serve all Nebraskans (and those we recruit from outside of the state).

For Regent Pillen and Governor Ricketts to identify one theory to be banned because of their vague claims of "Marxism" and "divisiveness" smacks up against academic rigor, as well as academic freedom. Both of their interpretations of CRT theory(ies) would garner a poor grade in my classes for undergraduates and would be a failing effort for any masters or Ph.D. level candidate. CRT theories and their precursors are tools that students and faculty have a right to examine, assess and include or exclude from their studies.

An elected Regent at NU or an appointed Chancellor or President requires having a more expansive and nuanced understanding of the role of competing ideas in higher education. That is how you protect the mission and reputation of the University of Nebraska as a land grant institution for all Nebraskans. Regent Pillen is espousing a political position that undermines NUs autonomy and academic reputation. I urge you and the Board to dismiss this resolution from the Board's consideration entirely.

Sincerely,
Helen Moore

Emerita Professor of Sociology

2016 American Sociological Association Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award

2015 Carla Howery Award for Developing Teacher-Scholars (American Soc Ass'n)

2013 UNL Faculty Senate Louise Pound/George Howard Distinguished Career Award

2010 UNL Martin Luther King Jr. Fulfilling the Dream Award.

2009 UNL Sociology Outstanding Faculty Graduate Mentor Award.

2009 Aaron Douglas Professorship for Excellence in Teaching Inaugural Award, UN-L (2009-2014).

2001 UNL Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Appointed, VC Academic Affairs.

2000 University of Nebraska System-wide Outstanding Teaching and Creativity Award

1999 UNL Ronald E. McNair Outstanding Undergraduate Mentor Award.

1997 UNL Faculty Volunteer Spirit Award

1996 James Lake Academic Freedom Award. UNL Faculty Senate.

1996 University of Nebraska System Wide Distinguished Department Teaching Award

Sociology Department (Nominator: Received on behalf of the department)

1990 UNL Alumni Teaching Recognition Award.

1988 Chancellor's Award for Exemplary Service to Students.

1985 UNL College Distinguished Teaching Award.