

**From:** Phil Bakken  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021 3:23 PM  
**To:** Barbara Weitz  
**Subject:** FW: On banning Critical Race Theory

FYI---thanks for referring Tess.

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**From:** Phil Bakken <pbakken@nebraska.edu>  
**Date:** Friday, July 9, 2021 at 3:22 PM  
**To:** Theresa Mayer [Redacted]  
**Cc:** Shelley Harrold <sharrold@nebraska.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: On banning Critical Race Theory

Dear Tess,

Thank you for your note. We have added you to the list of individuals wishing to speak during the Public Comment portion of the Board of Regents' meeting on Friday, August 13, 2021.

The meeting will be held in the Boardroom at Varner Hall (3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, Nebraska) and will likely start at 9:00am. As the meeting date draws near, we will be in touch with more information regarding participation.

Sincerely,

Phil

—  
Phil Bakken  
Corporation Secretary  
University of Nebraska System  
(402) 472-3906  
[nebraska.edu/regents](http://nebraska.edu/regents)

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**From:** Theresa Mayer [Redacted]  
**Date:** Friday, July 9, 2021 at 3:12 PM  
**To:** Phil Bakken <pbakken@nebraska.edu>  
**Subject:** Fw: On banning Critical Race Theory

Non-NU Email

Hi Phil,

I sent this email to all the regents today. Barbara Weitz replied and suggested I speak on this issue at the meeting in August. I would like to register to speak, if that's possible.

Thanks,  
Tess Mayer

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** telare@nebraska.edu <telare@nebraska.edu>; jackstark@nebraska.edu <jackstark@nebraska.edu>; jpillen@nebraska.edu <jpillen@nebraska.edu>; eoconnor@nebraska.edu <eoconnor@nebraska.edu>; rschafer@nebraska.edu <rschafer@nebraska.edu>; pkenney@nebraska.edu <pkenney@nebraska.edu>; bphares@nebraska.edu <bphares@nebraska.edu>; bweitz@nebraska.edu <bweitz@nebraska.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 9, 2021, 12:09:11 PM CDT

**Subject:** On banning Critical Race Theory

Hello all,

This morning I saw the announcement from Pete Ricketts about you voting to ban CRT from any curriculum. First and foremost, I have to say that this seems like satire: "University Bans History"... I cannot believe this is real. I am not sure what is in this for you, Jim. Some of that sweet, sweet Ricketts notoriety? Money? A future in the GOP?! I digress.

I graduated from UNL in 2014 and during my time there, I witnessed the most unabashed racism I've ever seen. I'm deeply ashamed to say I never stepped in when someone would yell a racist slur at an international student on the bus (I had classes on both City and East campuses, so I was constantly on the bus, there were always boisterous comments about how many Asian students were on the bus).

I'm not sure how involved all of you were during the 2012/2013 academic years, but there was so much racism on campus that Chancellor Perlman actually sent an email to every student asking them to not be racists. An anonymous blog called UNL Haters captured sexist/homophobic/racist tweets from University of Nebraska students. The blog is still up and I took some screen captures of some tweets for your review (attached to this email). I actually spent the bulk of this morning walking down the horrific memory lane that was race relations at UNL during my time there.

To be honest with you all, although I don't regret going to UNL by any means, I don't really have a lot of positive memories associated with my time there (it doesn't have to do with the University... I worked three jobs while in school to pay for my education so that period of my life is kind of a blur). That being said, one of my greatest memories while at the University was the class I took called Multicultural Education.

I am not here to discuss whether or not racism exists or to talk about the concept of privilege. But I do want to say: the calculus, chemistry, French, and art classes I took at UNL have really not served me in my post-grad life. But I cannot imagine who I would be as an employee, boss, friend, or human had it not been for that Multicultural Education class. I am a white woman who grew up comfortably here in Lincoln. I didn't necessarily have bigoted thoughts, but I was never motivated to understand other cultures, stand up for others, or demand meaningful change. That class-gaining a knowledge of diversity, race, and the history of various cultures- made me a better person- a person who cannot just sit here while a group of white people decide whether or not a University should teach its students about racism.

I do not mean any disrespect, but as I said, it's pretty wild that this is even on the table.

Please take a moment to remember why UNL was in the headlines less than 10 years ago. It was not flattering for the University or for the state of Nebraska. Having a goof like this in 2021 would be difficult to come back from, not to mention EXPENSIVE. So if you're not going to think with your brains or your hearts, maybe consider the money?

I would appreciate hearing back from you to confirm that this was received and read. I don't tend to leave things like this alone until I feel they've been adequately addressed (this is the kind of woman I am thanks to UNL, and I really like her).

[Students say UNL race problem persists, despite campaign | News | dailynebraskan.com](#)

[University of Nebraska Chancellor Decries Racial Incidents \(usaonrace.com\)](#)

[A message from Chancellor Perlman | Nebraska Today | University of Nebraska-Lincoln \(unl.edu\)](#)

My best,  
Tess Mayer

**Redacted**