

From: Maley, Corey John [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 11:31 AM
To: Elizabeth O'Connor
Subject: Resolution Against CRT

Non-NU Email

Dear Ms. O'Connor,

I am a proud UNL alumnus, having graduated with multiple majors. I am always happy to tell prospective students of my time at the University of Nebraska, and even recently recommended UNL to a very gifted high school senior who had several other options. I was happy to complete an interview for the Department of Philosophy:

<https://www.unl.edu/philosophy/curious-alumni-corey-j-maley>

I am now a professor of philosophy, and I saw lucky enough to find a job at the University of Kansas, near enough to Nebraska that I frequently come back to visit

Unfortunately, I recently saw that Governor Ricketts has endorsed a resolution for the Board of Regents to oppose Critical Race Theory. As a teacher of many ideas, both mundane and controversial, I am quite dismayed that the Board would deem it necessary to oppose any idea like this.

It is crucial for us as educators to be able to freely discuss ideas about virtually anything. This is the foundation of academic freedom, and of freedom of speech more broadly.

Personally, I teach students philosophical arguments both for the existence of God, and against the existence of God. I do not do so in order to indoctrinate them with either view, but to show them that intelligent people on both sides of this debate have had interesting ideas throughout history. I also teach students issues relating to the ethics of abortion, both for and against. Again, the point is not to indoctrinate or belittle any particular view, but to show the wide variety of possible intellectual positions.

One of our recent philosophy graduate students at the University of Kansas is from Saudi Arabia. He came to the U.S. in order to study philosophy, because it has been illegal to study philosophy or other ideas in Saudi Arabia that may contradict the government's principles and theology (that has only recently changed, and philosophy is now legal). One of the great things about the freedom we have in this country is that we have the freedom to critically study, and sometimes even criticize, our own

government. The founding fathers knew the importance of this.

For the Board of Regents to oppose any intellectual idea in an educational context, no matter how seemingly un-American one might think it is, is itself un-American. Particularly in our educational systems, faculty and students must be free to think about and discuss every idea, without fear that only certain ideas are sanctioned, or that certain ideas are not to be questioned.

I am not alone in this assessment. Recently, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, responded in an admirable way to questions about Critical Race Theory at a House Armed Services Committee hearing. I encourage you to watch his response here:

<https://www.npr.org/2021/06/23/1009592838/top-general-defends-studying-critical-race-theory-in-the-military>

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this email.

Again, I am proud to call myself an alumnus of the University of Nebraska, and I hope it will remain the great place that it was when I attended year ago.

Please do feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any of these issues. I would be happy to do so.

Best wishes,

Corey

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