

Political Diversity of UNLV Faculty Spring 2004

*A Report by the UNLV Students For
Academic Freedom (SAF) and the UNLV
College Libertarians*

by Adriana Jawel, Amanda Moran, Brandon
Robison, and Roger Roots

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The issue of ideological bias at American universities has recently attracted nationwide attention. Studies of faculty diversity indicate that today's colleges and universities are "virtual one-party states" where liberal bias tilts virtually all intellectual debates to the left, according to a recent report by the American Enterprise Institute (2002). Most colleges have faculties that are composed of more than 80 percent registered Democrats, even though the number of registered Republicans and Democrats in the U.S. is roughly the same.

Conservative commentator David Horowitz has been writing about the problem of liberal bias at American universities for more than a decade. The "total domination of the left over the institutions of higher learning," writes Horowitz, has generated "a politicization of academic life unprecedented in the history of our democracy" (1999: 141). Conservative dissenters "are more isolated, more politically excluded, more intimidated, and more restricted in their opportunities for scholarly advancement and political expression than communist and pro-Soviet professors were in the McCarthy period, during the height of the Cold War" (Horowitz 1999: 142).

This deplorable situation did not happen by accident. It is the result of a McCarthyism operating inside these academic institutions, fueled by the atmosphere of "political correctness" that has enveloped the academy since the ascension of the tenured left. The hegemony of this left has resulted in politicized hiring practices, systematic exclusion of dissenting voices, and an atmosphere of political intimidation to a degree seen only in countries ruled by communist or fascist or theocratic dictatorships. In America, however, the state is not the enforcer of political orthodoxy. It is leftist faculty members and pliant administrators who are responsible for this state of affairs (Horowitz 1999, 143).

The problem of academic bias has become so acute that two members of the U.S. Congress, Jack Kingston and Walter Jones, recently introduced an "Academic Bill of Rights" (authored by Horowitz) calling for universities to end discrimination against hiring conservatives (Kingston and Jones 2003). "Most students probably graduate without ever having a class taught by a professor with a conservative viewpoint," according to Kingston (R-GA) (Kingston and Jones 2003). Representative Jones (R-N.C.) has cited statistics showing that campus funding is distributed to organizations with leftist agendas by a ratio of 50:1 (Kingston and Jones 2003).

During the past two years David Horowitz has worked with college students to build a nationwide network of students called "Students for Academic Freedom" (SAF), and more than 123 colleges and universities now have SAF chapters. Horowitz and the

Students for Academic Freedom have established themselves as watchdogs over the liberal bias of America's institutions of higher learning. UNLV's SAF chapter was started by two political science majors, Adriana Jawel and Amanda Moran.

Among the chief aims of SAF is to document the extent of ideological disproportion among higher educational institutions. The SAF has initiated a complaint process for students to complain about abuses by liberal faculty members. The complaint process is intended to record instances of discrimination in grading and promotion, as well as the common practice by liberal professors of turning their classrooms into bully pulpits for political indoctrination. Studies of party affiliations of professors are another way to measure the extent of political lopsidedness at colleges and universities.

FACULTY BIAS AT UNLV

How does the faculty at UNLV compare to faculties at other American colleges with regard to political disproportionality? We established a research group composed of UNLV SAF members and UNLV College Libertarian members and decided to find out. On March 8, 2004, our research team conducted a study of UNLV faculty affiliations based on the research model established by David Horowitz and the American Enterprise Institute. We took the names of 125 UNLV professors in the Departments of Civil Engineering, Economics, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology and compared them against Clark County voter registration rolls. Nineteen professors were registered as nonpartisan and another 19 were unregistered. Another nine professors had names that were too common to determine their party affiliation. Of the 78 professors who were registered with any party, there were 69 registered Democrats, 6 registered Republicans, 2 registered Greens, 1 registered Independent American, and 0 registered Libertarians. This compares to overall Clark County voter registration, which is 43.7 % Democrat and 37.2 % Republican.

There were several large departments at UNLV where not a single registered Republican was found. In the History Department, for example, there were 16 Democrats and zero Republicans. In Sociology, there were eight Democrats, one Green, and zero Republicans. In Economics, there were 5 Democrats and no Republicans.

One of the most diverse departments in the study, Civil and Environmental Engineering, had only two registered Republicans out of a total of 14 professors (6 were registered Democrat and the others were either unregistered or nonpartisan registered). In the UNLV Political Science Department, there was only one registered Republican out of 16 professors. In contrast, there were 8 registered Democrats and 1 registered Green. Twenty-three English professors in the UNLV English Department were registered Democrats, as opposed to two Republicans, one professor registered with the Independent American Party, and four who were not identified with any party.

LIBERAL VERSUS CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL AFFILIATION

The September 2002 issue of *American Enterprise* featured a report that categorized professors at twenty higher education institutions according to "left" or "right" political affiliation. Professors who registered in either the Democratic or Green Party were classified as members of a party of the Left. Those registered in either the Republican or Libertarian Party were classified as members of a party of the Right. In this study of UNLV faculty affiliations, the research team adopted this same

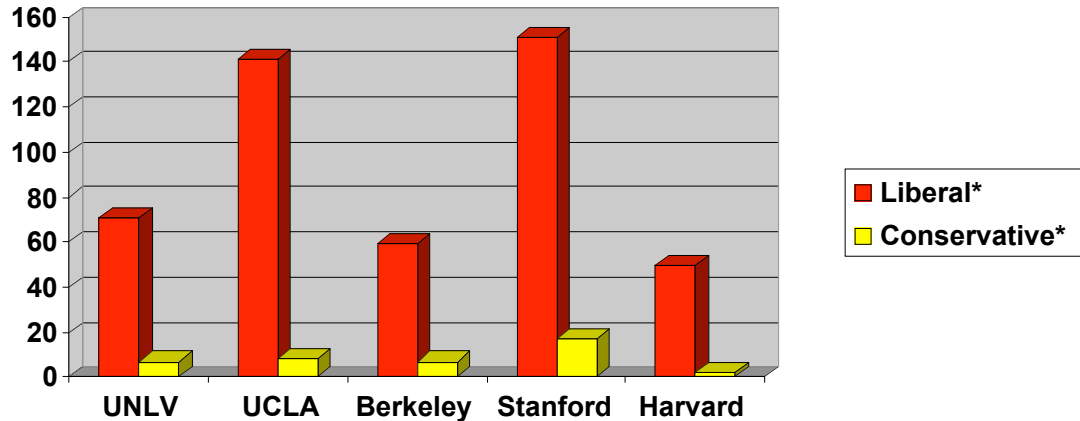
classification system, with the addition of the Independent American Party as another party of the Right.

Based on ratios of liberal-to-conservative bias at twenty other institutions of higher learning studied by the American Enterprise Institute, liberal disproportionality among UNLV’s professors closely tracks trends at other schools. Fully 91 percent of UNLV’s faculty who are affiliated with any party are registered with a party of the Left (Democratic or Green), and just nine percent are registered with a party of the Right (Republican, Libertarian or American Independent Party). Of the twenty colleges surveyed by the American Enterprise Institute--ranging from 98.6-percent-liberal-registered U.C.-Santa Barbara to 76-percent-liberal-registered University of Houston—a rough average of approximately 91.8 percent liberal-registration was found (American Enterprise 2002). It is difficult to tell whether these twenty institutions are representative of all American colleges, and we caution readers not to generalize from this figure. The twenty schools in the American Enterprise study may represent higher-than-average liberal-to-conservative ratios. In any case, rates of liberal-to-conservative tilt among UNLV professors approximate the mean for the schools featured in *American Enterprise*.

Liberal Party Registration at Selected Schools

<i>School</i>	<i>Professors Registered in Parties of the Left</i>
Brown University	94.7 percent
Cornell University	96.5 percent
Davidson College	90.9 percent
Denver College	97.2 percent
Harvard University	96.5 percent
Penn State University	85.5 percent
Pomona College	90.0 percent
San Diego State University	87.9 percent
Stanford University	89.9 percent
State U. of New York at Binghamton	97.2 percent
Syracuse University	96.2 percent
U.C. Berkeley	89.4 percent
U.C.L.A.	94.0 percent
U.C. San Diego	94.3 percent
U.C. Santa Barbara	98.6 percent
U. Colorado at Boulder	95.9 percent
U. of Houston	76.3 percent
U. of Maryland	85.5 percent
<i>University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV)</i>	<i>91.0 percent</i>
U. Texas at Austin	86.2 percent

Numbers of Liberal and Conservative Professors in Selected Programs at Selected Universities
(based on local voter registration records)



* “Liberal” = registered Democrat or Green; “Conservative” = registered Republican, Libertarian, or Independent American.

CONCLUSION

This study establishes that the faculty of the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) closely tracks faculties at other American colleges and universities in terms of its lack of political and ideological diversity. Fully 91 percent of UNLV professors who are registered with any political party are registered Democrats or Greens. Students seeking diverse or dissenting political ideas have little chance of finding them represented among UNLV professors.

The leftist bias among professors at contemporary American colleges and universities poses a serious problem in higher education. At best, this pervasive one-party environment threatens fundamental principles of social and ideological diversity. It promotes intellectual laziness that stymies advances in the social sciences and the humanities in ways that few professors are able to measure. At worst, this bias impends increasing dictatorial totalitarianism within the academy, accompanied by restrictive limits on speech and writing (Roche 1994, 205). According to David Horowitz, “[s]ystematic intellectual intimidation [has] virtually driven conservative thought from the halls of academe” (Horowitz 1999: 153). “There is not a conservative faculty member lacking tenure at an American university who does not live in fear of possible termination for politically incorrect views” (Horowitz 1999: 153).

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Data: D=Democrat; R=Republican; G=Green Party; L=Libertarian; O=Independent American Party; NP=Nonpartisan registered; N=Not registered; TM=Too many similar names to determine.

Last Name	First Name	Party	Department
Assane	Djeto	N	Economics
Bold	Frederick	D	Economics
Carroll	Thomas	D	Economics
Chen	Lein-Lein	NP	Economics
Cronovich	Ronald	NP	Economics
Daneshvary	Nasser	NP	Economics
Hoppe	Hans-Hermann	N	Economics
Karstensson	Lewis	D	Economics
Malamud	Bernard	D	Economics
Miller	Stephen	TM	Economics
Riddel	Mary	D	Economics
Robinson	William	TM	Economics
Schlottmann	Alan	N	Economics
Schwer	Raymond K	NP	Economics
Waddoups	Jeffrey	N	Economics
Wimmer	Bradley	NP	Economics
Yamashita	Takashi	N	Economics
Adams	Charles L	R	English
Barnstone	Aliki	D	English
Becker-Leckrone	Megan	D	English
Bowers	John M	D	English
Brown	Stephen G	TM	English
Campbell	Felicia F	D	English
Coburn	W Leon	D	English
Dodge	Robert K	D	English
Engberg	Norma J	N	English
Erwin	D Timothy	D	English
Gajowski	Evelyn J	D	English
Hafen	P Jane	D	English
Harp	Richard L	R	English
Hudgins	Christopher C	D	English
Irsfeld	John H	D	English
Jablonski	Jeffrey A	O	English

Keelan	Claudia A	D	English
LoLordo	Vincent N	NP	English
Mays	Kelly	D	English
McCullough	Joseph B	D	English
Moore	Sharon L	TM	English
Perez	Vincent	D	English
Rosenberg	Beth C	D	English
Rusche	Philip G	D	English
Stitt	J Michael	D	English
Unger	Douglas A	D	English
Unrue	Darlene H	D	English
Unrue	John C	D	English
Weinstein	Mark A	NP	English
Whitney	Charles C	D	English
Wiley	Richard M	D	English
Bell	Andrew	N	History
Brown	Gregory	TM	History
Casas	Raquel	N	History
Chung	Sue Fawn	D	History
Coughtry	Jay	D	History
Fry	Joseph A	D	History
Goodwin	Joanne	D	History
Kirk	Andrew	D	History
Loader	Colin	D	History
Mattson	Vernon	D	History
Moehring	Eugene	D	History
Rollings	Willard	D	History
Rothman	Hal	NP	History
Tanenhaus	David	D	History
Tusan	Michelle	D	History
Wallace	Barbara	D	History
Ward	Janet	D	History
Werth	Paul	NP	History
White	Elizabeth	TM	History
Whitney	Elsbeth	D	History
Wright	Thomas	D	History
Wrobel	David	D	History
Beisecker	David	R	Philosophy
Dove	Ian	N	Philosophy
Finocchiaro	Maurice	NP	Philosophy
Jones	Todd	D	Philosophy
Nyden-Bullock	Tammy	NP	Philosophy
Phelps	Mary	TM	Philosophy
Schollmeier	Paul	D	Philosophy
Wilburn	Ron	D	Philosophy
Bennett	Anne	NP	Poli Science
Bowers	Michael	D	Poli Science
Damore	David	D	Poli Science
Fott	David	R	Poli Science
Itoh	Mayumi	D	Poli Science
Jelen	Ted G	D	Poli Science
Lamatsch	Thomas	N	Poli Science

Parker	Steven	TM	Poli Science
Simich	Jerry L	D	Poli Science
Strand	Jonathan R	G	Poli Science
Tamadonfar	Mehran	NP	Poli Science
Titus	Dina	D	Poli Science
Tuman	John P	D	Poli Science
Walton	Craig	N	Poli Science
Ward	Ann	N	Poli Science
Zundel	Alan	D	Poli Science
Bernhard	Bo	D	Sociology
Brents	Barb	D	Sociology
Carns	Donald	D	Sociology
Dickens	David	D	Sociology
Fontana	Andrea	D	Sociology
Futrell	Robert K	N	Sociology
Gottschalk	Simon	N	Sociology
Hausbeck	Kate	D	Sociology
Hirschorn	Barbara	N	Sociology
Keene	Jennifer	NP	Sociology
Osborne	Lynn	D	Sociology
Parker	Robert K	N	Sociology
Preston	Frederick	D	Sociology
Prokos	Anastasia	G	Sociology
Shalin	Dmitri	NP	Sociology
Smith	Ron	TM	Sociology
Wray	Matt	NP	Sociology
Batista	Jacimaria	N	Civ/Env Engin
Cardle	James	R	Civ/Env Engin
Frederick	Gerald	NP	Civ/Env Engin
Ghafoori	Nader	N	Civ/Env Engin
James	David E	D	Civ/Env Engin
Karakouzian	Moses	NP	Civ/Env Engin
Kaseko	Mohamed	N	Civ/Env Engin
Ladkany	Samaan	R	Civ/Env Engin
Luke	Barbara	D	Civ/Env Engin
Nambisan	Shashi	D	Civ/Env Engin
Neumann	Edward S	D	Civ/Env Engin
Piechota	Thomas	D	Civ/Env Engin
Sack	Ron	D	Civ/Env Engin
Vodrazka	Walter	NP	Civ/Env Engin

Press Release:

UNLV Faculty Overwhelmingly Liberal, Study Finds

A study conducted by members of the UNLV chapter of Students for Academic Freedom (SAF) and the UNLV College Libertarians shows that UNLV's faculty is overwhelmingly liberal, as indicated by voter registrations of UNLV professors. Although UNLV professors and administrators sometimes proclaim that the UNLV campus is a place for the free exchange of diverse ideas, the voter registrations of the University's faculty indicates that ideological diversity is sorely lacking among instructors. UNLV's faculty is statistically more liberal than even many well-known liberal universities, such as Stanford and Berkeley.

The study involved a systematic search through Clark County Voter Registration rolls for the names of 125 UNLV professors from the Departments of Civil Engineering, Civil Engineering, Economics, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology. UNLV political science student Adriana Jawel, who is chapter president of the Students for Academic Freedom (SAF), along with fellow SAF member Amanda Moran, College-Libertarian President Brandon Robison, and Sociology Instructor Roger Roots conducted the study using Clark County's on-line database of registered voters. They found that of 78 professors who were registered with any party, there were 69 registered Democrats, 6 registered Republicans, 2 registered Greens, 1 registered Independent American, and 0 registered Libertarians. This compares to overall Clark County voter registration which is 43.7 % Democrat and 37.2 % Republican.

The study also found that there are several large departments at UNLV where not a single registered Republican teaches. In the History Department, for example, the study identified 16 Democrats and zero Republicans. In Sociology, there are eight Democrats, one Green, and zero Republicans. In Economics, there are 5 Democrats and no Republicans.

SAF President Adriana Jawel, a political science major and coauthor of the study, said the findings support her own observations of political one-sidedness at UNLV. "Instead of a broad base of ideas, we are given only one side of every issue." "As a college student, I expected to be able to speak my mind freely, but I was wrong," she said. Amanda Moran, a freshman political science major who also worked on the study, feels "cheated out of a proper college experience." "In some cases," Moran states, "liberal professors push their political agendas openly." She has never known a conservative professor to do so.

College Libertarian President Brandon Robison, an economics major who conducted most of the computer research for the study, commented, “I was amazed at the lack of diversity at UNLV, especially among traditionally conservative disciplines like economics.” Roger Roots, a Ph.D. student and instructor of Sociology at the University who supervised the study, charged that the lack of diversity among UNLV faculty is the product of many years of systematic discrimination against conservative and libertarian job applicants. “Despite claims that UNLV provides a diverse atmosphere for learning, its faculty selection committees rarely even consider a conservative or libertarian for any faculty position.” “If the University discriminated in the same way on the basis of race or gender, it would be in court constantly.”

Among the most interesting findings of the study is that UNLV is even more biased toward the Left than many notoriously left-leaning campuses such as U.C. Berkeley and Stanford University.

Adriana Jawell states that students at UNLV who experience grade discrimination or other abuse on account of their political or ideological views should contact SAF and write a complaint that will be made available for other potential students. “Students for Academic Freedom is dedicated to ending the tyranny of liberal academic elite viewpoints.” “SAF chapters are working hard to restore the diversity that has been absent on college campuses for more than 40 years.”