

From: David Forsythe <dforsythe1@unl.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Timothy Clare
Subject: NU Regents and partisan culture wars

Dear Regent Clare,

I am told that the NU Board of Regents will be asked to take a stand on a view called Critical Race Theory.

I wish to make three simple points.

- 1) It is undeniable as fact that American history unfortunately shows much racism, starting with slavery and moving on to Jim Crow laws, lynching, racial segregation in education, the rise of the KKK, certain immigration laws, etc. Recognizing this aspect of American history does not imply that there are no good virtues in this society or that other historical patterns are not present as well.
- 2) Despite undeniable facts of American history showing racism, the subject of the teaching of race relations has become a matter of culture wars as driven by partisan politics. Quite clearly one political party has sought to appeal to many of its supporters by stirring up opposition to one approach which is rarely read and often misrepresented.
- 3) In the interests of academic freedom, the Regents should steer away from this controversy, not get involved in these partisan political maneuvers, and refuse to pronounce on the subject. It is perfectly clear that the current controversy is not about accuracy in education but rather about flag waving and manipulation for partisan and individual political gain. If the Regents endorse one (distorted) view in this matter, it will have been drawn into partisan politics—which is not the role of the Regents.

Sincerely yours, Dave Forsythe

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