

GOP Need Not Apply

Cornell Faculty Dominated by Democrats

by Kenneth Lee

Universities have worked assiduously to diversify their faculties in the past few decades. Unfortunately, academia's notion of diversity has completely ignored diversity in the intellectual realm: conservative professors are the most underrepresented group at Cornell and other elite universities.

It should come as no surprise that universities are dominated by left-wing ideologues, but empirical evidence to corroborate this reality has been generally lacking. The Review analyzed public voter registration records of professors at Cornell and several other universities, and the results clearly prove the pervasive left-wing bias in the faculty.

Cornell's nationally renowned history department has

Similarly, Democrats outnumber Republicans 16 to 1 in the government department.

Other departments showed the same imbalance: Democrats outpoll Republicans 25 to 1 in psychology, 35 to 1 in English, and 10 to 3 in economics. In the Women's Studies and Africana Studies departments — traditional provinces of left-wing ideology — Democrats not surprisingly reign. The two departments combined had 38 Democrats and no Republicans. In total, registered Democrats outpolled registered Republicans 171 to 7 in seven of the larger and more popular liberal arts departments at Cornell. This means that only 3.5% of the faculty in these departments are registered Republicans. Thus, for every one Republican professor, there are about 25 more Democratic professors.

Investigation at other universities yielded similar results. Stanford University, for example, had 163

registered Democrats and only 17 Republicans in its more popular departments.

The paucity of Republican professors presents this question: is there discrimination against conservatives at our nation's top universities? For years, liberals have argued that the underrepresentation of minority professors is *ipso facto* proof of racism, and they have usually implemented programs to reach the quixotic goal of proportional representation. Since Republicans represent roughly a third of the electorate, and even higher proportion of the college-educated population, perhaps universities like Cornell should recruit intellectually conservative professors with the same zeal and exigency they display for balancing flesh tones.

This political lopsidedness also does not bode well for

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the students' education. While students may be taught by professors of different skin colors, they are not exposed to the diversity of ideas. Even in traditional departments such as history, many students are exposed to only leftist interpretations of history.

This imbalance also helps explain academia's obsession with race, gender and class. Some departments are quite candid about their politicized nature. The course catalogue for the Women's Studies program at Cornell, for instance, states: "Central to the curriculum in women's studies are such overarching notions as these: (a) that definitions of gender — including those that privilege exclusive heterosexuality — are not natural or universal but are instead social constructions that vary across time and place, serve political ends, and have ideological underpinnings; (b) that systems of gender inequality interact with other social inequalities, including those of class, race, ethnicity, sexual preference, and Western vs. non-Western cultures."

Not surprisingly, these classes are heavily politicized and often intolerant of dissenting views. The Review has obtained independent course evaluations for one such class, Psychology 277: Social Construction of Gender. Most students gave the class and its instructor (Prof. Sandra Bem) high marks, but they also complained about the ideological one-sidedness. One student wrote, "I felt like I was being force-fed a bunch of rhetoric I didn't agree

with — and I couldn't disagree with." Another said, "[The class was] quite interesting, but the indoctrination got tiresome." And another student wrote, "The professor wasn't open to others' opinions [and] only presented her point of view." What's most revealing about these evaluations is that students who enroll in this course are generally receptive to feminist ideas, but even they found it too politicized.

Of course, just because most professors are registered Democrats does not necessarily mean that all of them are radical left-wing ideologues who proselytize their political views. Most professors at Cornell are brilliant scholars and great teachers, and they do not penalize students with differing views. But the gross imbalance does corroborate the anecdotal evidence of left-wing bias. And even worse, it severely restricts the range of views, and that's a pity because students learn best when there exists a clash of opposing views.

Universities were once dubbed the marketplace of ideas, but today it has become transformed into a gray one-party state.

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by Tom M

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